Ca1
MH
88P12
c.2

Panel discussions in 33 local communities on the topic of shelter for the homeless

815-8768

Ca1
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NCWC
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN OF CANADA

March 15, 1988.

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Attention: Mr. Edward Sussman, Senior Planner
Strategic Planning and Policy Development
682 Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P7

Dear Mr. Sussman,

It is with pleasure that I forward for your information and interest a copy of the Report to the CMHC which funded our request in the amount of $10,900 for the support of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

This project not only helps to make the general public aware of the problem but motivates our affiliated groups to continue their search for a solution.

Our report is being distributed to Councils of Women across Canada and to all affiliated institutions.

Sincerely,

Rosslyn Tetley

Rosslyn Tetley
Vice President, NCWC
Co-Ordinator
"Homelessness in Your Home Town Programme"

Encl.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement

Canadian Housing Information Centre
Centre canadien de documentation sur l'habitation

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES GRANTS - REPORTING FORM - FINAL REPORT

Name of organization: The National Council of Women of Canada
Suite 20, 270 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0M3

Address: As above

Telephone no. (613) 233-4953

Name of project: "Homelessness in Your Home Town"

Name of person completing this report: Rosslyn Tetley
112 Cornwall Avenue
Montreal, Quebec
H3P 1M8
(514) 733-8049

Starting date: June 1, 1987.

Completion date: March 15, 1988

Amount of grant contracted with CMHC:	$10,900.00
Amount of money received	5,500.00
Amount of money outstanding	5,400.00

Detailed financial statement: See Appendix "A"

Statement of Work:

a)	a description of the project	See Appendix "B"
	speakers actively involved	See Appendix "C"
b)	objectives description:	See Appendix "D"
	recommendations	See Appendix "E"

c) Individual Council Reports and Coverage of Meetings.

Rosslyn Tetley

APPENDIX "A"

The National Council of Women
Project "Homelessness in Your Home Town"
March 15, 1988.

Financial Statement as at
March 1, 1988.

Receipts

November 17, 1987. Grant from Strategic Policy and Planning Division of Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

(Grant is $10,900.) Received to date -	$5,500.00

Disbursements (Actual)

June 1, 1987- March 1, 1988.

Local Council Costs (24)	7,200.00	
Ottawa Office Rent & Staff	7,584.00	
Postage	151.43	
Telephone	150.48	
Printing	61.13	
Professional Writing	40.00	
Miscellaneous	5.65	
		15,192.69

Future Disbursements (Forecast)

March 15, 1988.

To mail 100 copies to participating Councils and to Federated Agencies of NCWC	$115.00		
Printing 60 pages at 5cents	300.00		
Outstanding Local Councils	300.00		
Outstanding telephone	20.00		
		725.00	
			15,917.69

Disbursements over receipts:	$10,417.69
Balance of Grant (to be received)	5,400.00
Deficit	$5,017.69

Individual local councils - the estimate had been based on the participation of thirty two councils and the revised number is twenty four.

The amount of their expenditures is therefore $7,200 plus two outstanding bills of $100 and $200 making a total of $7,500.

Office Costs:

The salary for the staff	1987-88..........	$25,000
The rent for the office	1987-88............	5,340
		30,340

or $2528 per month for rent and salary

We will be working from June, 1987 to March 1, 1988 -

3 months x $2828	..........$7,584

National Council of Women of Canada
Public Programmes Grants - Reporting Form - Final Report

APPENDIX "B"
(Brief Resume)

Burnaby: Two meetings were devoted to the problem of "Homelessness". The Administrator of Lifeline Society Transition House in Burnaby, Wenda Erickson, addressed the housing problems of women under stress. The second meeting included a panel of mayor and aldermen (municipal candidates) who were each given time to give their views on shelter and housing for the homeless.

Calgary: The Executive Director of the local Salvation Army's Children's Village, Elva Jolly, directed a community seminar on "The Homeless: Focus on Child Abuse". John Robinson of Mustard Seed Church continued with the same theme in January speaking on "Homeless Children".

Edmonton: Prof. Gayle James from the Social Work Faculty of the University of Alberta who had attended the world congress meeting on 'homelessness' in Vienna in September, 1987, spoke to Council on the problem in developed and developing nations as well as the lack of beds now available for psychiatrically ill &/or destitute women in Edmonton - a growing group.

Fort St. John: This Council concluded after a panel discussion that people who sleep on the street in Fort St. John may not know whom or how to ask for shelter. also investigated was the possibility that Day Care centre's can teach what a home is as well as look after children physically; rental assistance for the elderly, disabled, low income and single families; the native housing situation; and the present residential crisis facility.

Halifax: Council sponsored a panel discussion "Halifax Homeless Open Forum" for the community with representatives from City of Halifax (social services); Adsum House (women); Byrony House (battered women); Phoenix House (young adults); and the Salvation Army (men).

Hamilton: Hamilton joins in the common concern and has raised public awareness about needs at the international and local level. As part of the Women and Politics Conference, Council made available pamphlets from community organizations as a way of informing the public of housing services which already exist in the community. Council sponsored the luncheon, arranged for the speaker, Micki Moore, whose goal it is to energize and equip women for political awareness and involvement, goals quite closely related to improving community housing.

In October, Murray Dryden, founder of Sleeping Children Around the World, defined the needs of children internationally and the distribution of sleeping kits by its members.

The Hamilton Council has honoured the "Women's Innovative Housing Group". The group provided background material in detail on the housing scene in the city. Sophia Gubbins was sent by Council to the YWCA Housing Conference in Toronto and has reported on NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard). Several studies on housing were purchased from the Social Planning and Research Council for Council use.

London: A panel presentation was co-sponsored with the London Public Libraries' Community Relations Department. Participants were: Sheila Davenport, London Urban Resource Centre; Jan Richardson, Executive Director, Women's Community House; Horace Roberts, Mission Services of London, Men's Division; Kym Wolfe - Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Y.O.U.; Howard Pulver, Director of Housing Division, Advisory Council, City of London; Bruce Taylor, Chairman of the Board, Warner Place; Brian Parsons, Community Homes of Western Ontario; and Moderator: Connie Cunningham, Housing Chairperson, London Council of Women.

Moncton: "Help for the Homeless in the Moncton Area" was the title of the information meeting held in October. The panel was composed of Jean Smith of the Board of Directors of Crossroads For Women; Capt. Howlett of Family Services, Salvation Army; Claude Arsenault, The Little Lighthouse; Sister Rita Barrieau, House of Nazareth. These speakers were joined later in the programme by Claudette Bradshaw, Director of Headstart; Lorne Preston, Property Manager, Atlantic Peoples Housing Ltd.; Mary Miller from Support to Single Mothers;Margaret McCormack, President of the New Brunswick Home Economics Association and Maureen Magee from the Advisory Council, Status of Women.

Montreal: The Montreal Council invited four guests to be panelists at a discussion on "Interim Relief Housing". They were Judith Murray, CBC Producer and Writer as Moderator; John Gardiner, Member of the Executive Committee of Montreal, responsible for Housing and Urban Development, Fran Riley, Executive Director of Auberge Transition and Elizabeth Tremain, President of Chez Doris.

Mr. Dale Bairstow of Bairstow and Associates Consulting Ltd., an authority on the conversion of empty schools to housing, has accepted to speak to Council this spring.

New Glasgow: Is Home a Park Bench? New Glasgow LCW's panel discussion revealed that the problem belongs to the whole Pictou County community. Rev. Brian Weatherdon, Jayne MacCarthy, Executive Director of the Pictou County Help Line; Bernadette MacDonald of the Pictou County Women's Centre; and Capt. Tom Brown, Salvation Army; centred on relevant housing issues.

New Westminster:

A two-part programme was planned. At the first session Cpl Greg Donnelly from the New Westminster Police Department spoke on the Detached Youth Programme which tries to keep young men (mostly in poor living environments) off the streets and to make available a drop-in home which offers supervision, companionship, advice etc. The second speaker was Teri Nicholas, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, who emphasized the need to help street kids. Also attending was Doreen Vatour, Detached Youth Program Street Worker, who literally walks the streets at night, meeting the young people and offering help for their troubles.

Dr. Fred Harder then described Westminster House for alcohol/drug abused young women seeking to rehabilitate themselves, their need for accomodation and their need forcommunity support. Karen Howay described their duties and accomodation at Westminster House.

In November the New Westminster Council prepared a gerontology panel with speakers Mrs. Lorraine Johnson, Administrator of the B. C. Long Care Program, Simon Fraser Health Unit and Mrs. Coro Strandberg, Director of the Seniors' Bureau in New Westminster, Board member of Social Planning and Research Copuncil of British Colum,bia. The subjects were "Assessment for Admittance to Rest Homes" and "Task Force on Seniors' Housing".

Niagara Falls: Working on the premise that food and shelter are the true basics, the YWCA and Local Council of Women of Niagara Falls held a public forum in the Library on affordable housing. The panelists were Charles Cheesman, Co-ordinated Emergency Services; Murray Johnston, City Hall - Building Department; Sheila Massey, Niagara North community Legal Assistants; Gabe Damore, East Niagara Housing Authority; Brian McKeown, Stamford Kiwanis Non-profit Housing; Betty Anne Baker, Niagara Peninsula Homes Co-Ops; Bishop Don Mullen, Regional Youth Center; Alec Greaves, Social Planning Council; Judy Adamson, Canadian Mental Health; Lesley Warriner, Residence Director YWCA; and Norma Fear, Niagara Women in Crisis.

Ottawa: Mary King, Assistant Co-ordinator- Community Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, Advisor to the Ontario Minister of Housing and Member of the National Urban Core Support Network spoke to the Ottawa Council. As a result, Council has prepared a resolution "Housing and Associated Services for the Psychiatrically Disabled" for consideration of NCWC. Council members participated in a series of workshops on Homelessness, co-ordinated by the Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton.

Regina   Lowell Monkhouse, Executive Director, Regina Market Square, was the Coordinator of a public meeting on The Homeless to which Council invited the following panelists:

Donna Caruso, social Worker, Transition House (Hostel for Battered Women)

Eldon Anderson, Representing Seniors and, in particular, the Old Boys who have been displaced with the demolition of older, downtown hotels.

Joanne Crofferd, Director, Rainbow Youth Centre, which helps youth with problems.

Women's housing problems were underlined by singer-songwriter, Donna Caruso.

Regina Council President took part in the inaugural meeting for the Regina Coalition for the Homeless.

St. Catharines: Most in need of housing in the St. Catharines-Thorold area are women and young people aged 16-18. Council had a panel discussion consisting of Gillian Dooley of Women's Place and Mary Phillips of the YWCA Women's Residence on this topic with Milica Kovacevich, Executive Director of the St. Catharines and Thorold Social Planning and Research Council as moderator.

Saint John: Leslie Tennant who is chairman of the Saint John Community Based Coalition on Housing was the guest speaker at the Saint John Council of Women. There was much discussion and the Salvation Army representative explained their work in this regard.

Saskatoon: Saskatoon Council divided its efforts into a three-part programme. 1) "Street Children in Saskatoon", 2) Breakfast at the Salvation Army Hostel served by Local Council of Women. A tour of the facility and talk about its responsibilities. 3) "The plight of Battered Women".

Swift Current: 'The Need For Shelter' was the topic of a panel presented by Swift Current Council of Women. Members of the panel included:

Donna Lachapelle of the Swift Current Real Estate Board;
Jannie Lindsay of the Swift Current Housing Authority;
Rev. Alan Minarcik of First United Church; and
Capt. Russell Sutherland of the Salvation Army

Toronto: A meeting was held with Shirley Desrochers, President of Metropolitan Toronto Association for Community Living as the main speaker.

Truro: The 'Homelessness' crisis in this part of Nova Scotia was discussed by six panel members led by moderator Ann Mallick, a lawyer with Nova Scotia Legal Aid. They were:
Pat Irving, Good Neighbour -senior citizens groups;
Dianne Nickerson, Third Place - battered women;
MUMS (Mothers United for Metro Shelter) - Halifax;
was represented by Heather Schneider and May Ocean;
Louise Gilchrist, Local Charles Street House (halfway house);
Marilyn Brown, Childrens' Aid.

Vancouver: A great deal of work has been done by Vancouver Council focusing on information learned at small meeetings and contact with many existing facilities which include 1) Long Time Housing, 2) Greater Vancouver Regional District, 3) Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia, 4) Central City Mission Rehabilitation Center 5) Non-Profit Society, 6) The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, 7) East Enders (sheltered workshop for native women) plus five others under the Anglican church and many more.

Victoria: At the October meeting, Council members heard Mr. William Patterson, member of the Board of directors of the local United Nations address housing problems internationally. He was followed by Bobbie Kovar, Treasurer and Kathy Chopak, Vice-President of the Women's Shelter Society. Reverend Gipp Forster spoke on the work of the Mustard Seed Church with those who could not pay for food as well as accomodation. Florence McLean of the Mustard Seed Food Bank spoke of the problem of mentally retarded people on the streets in Victoria.

Winnipeg: "THE HOMELESS IN WINNIPEG: A Problem for this year and next...." was discussed by the following panel members.
John Rodgers, Executive Director of Main Street Project (2 locations; a detoxification centre: 42% of clients have no fixed address and a 26-bed hostel).
Captain Donna Eyre, Administrator of Baldwin House (a 42-bed facility for homeless women and children).
Janet Price, Resource Person at Augustine United Church (in a densely populated area adjacent to downtown business district which offers counselling, advocacy, crisis intervention and referral agency for housing needs).
Sister Leslie Sacouman, Executive Co-director of Rossbrook House (a temporary shelter for children needing a safe place).

White Rock: In October, White Rock, B. C. held "The Poverty Game". This was a two-day type of crash course - put youself in the place of a poor mother - to illustrate that homelessness and poverty go hand-in-hand. An active affordable housing committee came together as a result.

Appendix "C"

Statement of Work a) actively involved in serving the shelters' needs, the following speakers addressed our Councils:

Wenda Erickson, Administrator, Lifeline Society Transition House, Burnaby, B. C.,
Elva Jolly, Major, Executive Director, Salvation Army's Children's Village. (Calgary)
John Robinson, Pastor, Mustard Seed Church. (Calgary)
Gayle James, Prof., Social Work Faculty -University of Alberta. (Edmonton)
Charlotte Kehler, Housing Manager, Fort St. John Native Housing Society.
Harold Crowell, Director of Social Planning -Halifax.
Carol Sinclair, Bryony House (battered women) -Halifax.
Carol Copan, Adsum House (female adults) -Halifax.
Patricia Richards, Phoenix House, -Halifax.
Dianne Getz, Phoenix House, rehabilitation for older teens,-Halifax.
B.Bursey, Major, Salvation Army Men's Hostel, Halifax.
Murray Dryden, Founder, Sleeping Children Around the World. (Hamilton)
Sheila Davenport, London Urban Resource Centre,
Jan Richardson, Executive Director, Women's Community House
Horace Roberts, Mission Services of London, Men's Division,
Kym Wolfe, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, (Y.O.U.),
Howard Pulver, Director, Housing Division Advisory Council City of London,
Bruce Taylor, Chairman of the Board, Warner Place, -London
Brian Parsons, Community Homes of Western Ontario,
Jean Smith, Board of Directors of Crossroads for Women, (Moncton),
H. Howlett, Capt., Family Services, Salvation Army, -Moncton
Claude Arsenault, The Little Lighthouse, Moncton,
Sister Rita Barrieau, House of Nazareth, Moncton,
Claudette Bradshaw, Director of Headstart, Moncton,
Lorne Preston, Property Manager, Atlantic Peoples Housing Ltd.
Mary Miller, Support to Single Mothers,
Margaret McCormack, Pres. N. B. Home Economics Assoc.
Maureen Magee, Advisory Council, Status of Women, Moncton,
John Gardiner, Executive Committee of City of Montreal,
Fran Riley, Exec. Director of Augerge Transition, Montreal,
Elizabeth Tremaine, President of Chez Doris, Montreal,
Brian Weatherdon, Rev. -New Glasgow
Jane MacCarthy, Executive Director of Pictou County Help Line
Bernadette MacDonald of Pictou County Women's Centre
Tom Brown, Capt., Salvation Army,
Greg Donnelly, Cpl., Detached Youth Program, New Westminster Police Department
Teri Nicholas, Family Services of Greater Vancouver,
Doreen Vatour, Detached Youth Program Street Worker, -Van.
Fred Harder, Dr., Westminster House,
Lorraine Johnston, Administrator of the B. C. Long Care Program, Simon Fraser Health Unit,

Coro Strandberg, Director of the Seniors' Bureau, New Westminster, Board Member of social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia,
Charles Cheesman, Co-ord., Emergency Services, Niagara Falls,
Murray Johnston, City Hall Building Department,Niagara Falls,
Sheila Massey, Niagara North Community Legal Assistants,
Gabe Damore, East Niagara Housing Authority,
Brian McKeown, Stamford Kiwanis Non-Profit Housing, N. Falls,
Betty Anne Baker, Niagara Peninsula Homes Co-Ops,
Don Mullen, Bishop, Regional Youth Centre, Niagara Falls,
Alec Graves, Social Planning Council, Niagara Falls,
Judy Adamson, Canadian Mental Health, Niagara Falls,
Lesley Warriner, Residence Director YWCA, Niagara Falls,
Norma Fear, Niagara Women in Crisis,
Mary King, Assistant Co-ordinator, Community Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, Advisor to the Ontario minister of Housing and Member of the National Urban Core Support Network,
Lowell Monkhouse, Executive Director, Regina Market Square,
Donna Caruso, social worker, Transition House (battered women),
Eldon Anderson, Representing -Old Boys (displaced by demolition of old Regina hotels),
Joanne Crofferd, Director, Rainbow Youth Centre, Regina,
Donna Caruso, Regina singer/songwriter (advocat)
Gillian Dooley, St. Catharine's Women's Place
Mary Phillips, YWCA Women's Residence, St. Catharines,
Milica Kovacevich, Executive Director of the St. Catharines and Thorold Social Planning and Research Council.
Leslie Tennant, Chairman, Saint John Community Based Coalition on Housing,
Donna Lachapelle, Swift Current Real Estate Board,
Jannine Lindsay, Swift Current Housing Authority,
Alan Minarcik, Rev. First United Church, Swift Current,
Russell Sutherland, Capt., Salvation Army, Swift Current,
Shirley Desrochers, Pres. Metropolitan Toronto Assoc. for Community Living,
Ann Mallick, lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid,
Pat Irving, Good Neighbours, Truro,
Dianne Nickerson, Third Place (battered women) Truro,
Heather Schneider, MUMS (Mothers United for Metro Shelter),
May Ocean, MUMS, Truro,
Louise Gilchrist, Local Charles Street House (halfway house),
Marilyn Brown, Truro Children's Aid,
William Patterson, U. N., Victoria branch,
Bobbie Kovar, Treasurer, Women's Shelter Society,
Kathy Chopak, Vice President, Women's Shelter Society,
Gipp Forster, Rev., Mustard Seed Church, Victoria,
Florence McLean, Mustard Seed Food Bank, Victoria,
John Rodgers, Exec.Director, Winnipeg Main Street Project,
Donna Eyre, Capt., Administrator Baldwin House, Winnipeg,
Janet Price, Resource Person, Augustine United Church,
Sister Leslie Sacouman, exec. Co-director, Rossbrook House, Winnipeg.

Appendix "D"

The Objectives

The objectives of the "Homelessness in Your Home Town" project was to help to awaken Canadians from coast to coast of the tragedy of the homeless in Canada - not merely as a Canadian or a provincial or even a municipal problem but as a personal problem. The NCWC by means of its twenty-four Councils in twenty-four cities had meetings which extended into the suburbs and outlying municipalities and which not only touched the executives of the Council but also the members, related associations and the public through the media.

The publicity for the meetings and the media coverage of the meetings and projects was extensive, the attendance and participation was very broad. The resulting publicity multiplied the effect already made.

Not only were the participants and the public directly affected but so were government leaders on all levels. Federal, Provincial and Municipal and church leaders as well were implicated.

The objective was to aprise our members, our related associations, the public and government of homelessness in Canada and in their own neighbourhoods. This we believe we accomplished in our own small but particular manner.

Appendix "E"

Recommendations

The publicity and awakening of the public and of our leaders must not stop because the problem of the homeless must be faced in our own society.

We have realized that the problem is multiple, the breakdown of the family, the problem of drugs and alcohol, the problem of disenchanted youth, the unemployment of the unskilled, the lack of reasonable cost housing in many areas.

The problem of the homeless in Canada and our neighbourhoods is part of a breakdown of the society as it existed 40 years ago. Government, corporations, agencies and ministries both Federal and Provincial and municipal must do their part and must increase their activities to assist the homeless and to avoid future generations of homeless. The initiatives of CMHC are in the right direction including this modest attempt at awakening of the Canadian public.

The solution, however, is not merely the building of low-cost housing (although it is essential) - the problem is much more serious. It is the breakdown of our society particularly of the family as a unit. A central Federal, Provincial task force on the homeless might be a solution with a study in depth of the problem in Canada along with considerable awakening of all levels of the public government.

Particular recommendations of local councils can be found in the various reports in Appendix "C", "Statement of Work".

For example: The London Council of Women recommended:

1. undertake an indepth study of the recommendations of the "Report of the London Special Study Group on Low-Cost Family Rental Accomodation, taking appropriate action where feasible.

2. place special attention and time on study of the Home Sharing Program as a viable, economical solution for homeless youth and displaced families.

3. study the present needs for increased availability of accomodation for battered women and lend support and take action on obtaining increased accomodation for battered women.

4. review the recommendations of the 1975 -One Parent Family

Research Study (London Council of Women), taking action if required.

5. monitor progress of the proposed youth hostels, Salvation Army and N'amerind.

6. develop a resolution to urge the Government of Ontario to provide greatly increased funding for the rehabilitation of existing, older apartment units.

The letter of January 28, 1988 of the Winnipeg Council to the Mayor of Winnipeg is another vibrant example of local interest, concern and recommendation.

The Niagara Falls Council presentation to City Council of Niagara of November 10, 1987, is also very telling in its views.

In fact *all* the reports in their individual ways are important statements.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF WINNIPEG
ESTABLISHED 1894
IN FEDERATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA & THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

2575 Assiniboine Cr.
Winnipeg,Mb.R3J 0B6
January 28,1988

His Worship Mr. Bill Norrie Q.C.
City of Winnipeg
2nd Floor 510 Main St.
Winnipeg,Mb. R3B 1B9

Dear Mr. Norrie:

The Council of Women of Winnipeg, as part of a Common Programme involving 30 councils across Canada, sponsored a panel discussion on the topic ' THE HOMELESS IN YOUR HOMETOWN'. The Council is a federation of 34 local Women's organizations.

Winnipeg panelists described the conditions encountered by the homeless in our city.What we heard was very disturbing. When City Council reviews budget estimates it is necessary for you, our Mayor and Council to keep in mind the conditions of the homeless in Winnipeg. Homelessness is not only an economic problem, it is also a social problem. Special approaches are necessary to deal with the "unhousables" - those persons , because of personal lifestyle or behavioural problems are unable to maintain tenancy.

Two projects have proven effective in meeting the needs of the homeless.They also offer preventive solutions to the ongoing problem of shelter for the homeless in our urban society.

The first, ROSSBROOK HOUSE, is a recreational community drop-in centre in the north end. The centre belongs to the community and is staffed by people from the community. It is also a place where children seek temporary shelter when their homelife is in crisis. This respite, often needed only overnight, or a weekend is a place of safety, a place where they are known,accepted and treated with respect. This refuge is an important step to preventing runaway children from resorting to stealing and prostitution for survival. The Council of Women believes that an inner-city network of drop-in centres modelled on Rossbrook House could help to prevent a future generation of "unhousables".

The second project that has achieved considerable success is a needs-based residential housing project operated by the MAIN STREET PROJECT. The house rules for money management, violence and drinking have brought stability to persons who were previously "unhousable". Long term assessment rather than crisis management is taking these people out of the merry-go-round of social agencies and hospital emergency wards.

What is the alternative to centres like these? People go from crisis to crisis from referral agency to referral agency with increasing frustration and great expense to our social system.

There is one other aspect of low income housing that we would like to bring to your attention. About 300 single occupancy rooms were eliminated as a result of closing the YM/YWCA residences. Many of those people require a semi-sheltered situation to function in the community.

Please send us information on budget items in the current estimates aimed at solving these housing problems in Winnipeg.

When budget discussions are before City Council the Council of Women believes that priority should be given to the housing situation in the inner city. These decisions are financial and political and moral.

Yours truly,

Marilyn Letts

Marilyn Letts

President

c.c. Sister Leslie
c.c. John Rodgers
c.c. Coalition on Homelessness
c.c. Provincial CouncilOf Women of Manitoba
c.c. National Council of Women of Canada

112 - 9th Ave. N.E.,
Swift Current, Sask.
S9H 2R8
November 11, 1987

Mayor Len Stein,
City of Swift Current,
City Hall,
198 - 1st Ave. N.E.,
Swift Current, Sask.
S9H 2B2

Dear Mayor Stein:

At our Sub-Executive Meeting held yesterday afternoon the motion was made that the Swift Current Council of Women write a letter to you, as mayor of our city, stating some of the concerns which came out of a panel discussion on the topic of "Homelessness in our Home Town" held at our President's Tea on October 28th.

One of the main problems brought forward by one of the panelists, Cpt. Sutherland of the Salvation Army, was the condition of one of the apartment blocks in our city, namely the Milne Block. I had occasion to visit someone in that building just last week and will concur with all that the captain said regarding its deplorable condition. I would hope that you and some of the other City Council members would take the opportunity to check this apartment block for yourselves.

We, of the Council of Women, were pleased to see the article in the November 4th edition of the Swift Current Sun entitled "Building Targetted for a Look by City". which stated that the city will be looking into this matter. Perhaps there are other older apartment blocks in the city which could do with a similar inspection. Is there any city bylaw which states that apartment blocks should be inspected regularly? If not, perhaps there should be.

We trust that City Council will take this concern under consideration. We look forward to hearing of further developments regarding more adequate housing for our low and moderate income people.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Findlay

Mary E. Findlay,
President,
Swift Current Council
of Women.

Contract re report

In particular note:

2. Statement of Work. Can you answer

1. did the panel discussion focus the public's attention on the needs of the destitute in your area?

2. is there a lack of affordable housing in your area?

3. do those who live below the poverty line have particular needs in your area?

4. (as in 2. b.) is anyone doing anything about them? who is? what are they doing?

5. Refer to 2.c. Could you and two or three who attended the meeting get together for a few minutes and answer this one?

....

NCWC would like to qualify for the grant and be in a position to defend its findings. Personpower is short for report writing but I would be most grateful.

....

Please send along a notice of meeting, any coverage in the newspapers, the minutes if the secretary takes them, speakers' c.v.'s, pertinent questions asked, any circulated questionnaire and any resolution or action which followed as a result of interest in the meeting, photos.

....

....

BURNABY COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Jan.8, 1988

To Rosslyn Tetley, Common Program Coordinator

re Statement of Work:

A municipal election platform is an excellent stage for public attention : all the problem areas were brought out by the candidates, as listed--

a) the rush of building of high-rise apartments with high rents, and the number of low-rent small homes removed to make way for these:
-- complaint that rents are too high, and tenants must move out to the suburbs to find rents payable for their incomes.

--substitute basement suites, illegal suites creates an uneasy legal situation where real need exists.

--The intention of the Provincial Government to release mentally ill patients into neighbourhood communities before group or support homes are assured is a concern.

--emergency shelters for battered women are only half the number required for appeals for help. Long-term settlement of such women (who don't return to their homes) required low rent ---none in Burnaby.

Solutions: In Burnaby we are well supplied with housing for seniors. Could some seniors housing (perhaps the oldest) be re-allocated to other citizens?

From Mr. Randall (elected) that leasing of land should be considered as the basis for new low-cost housing.

Intentions We will inform the newly elected Municipal Council of our interests and concerns re-housing.
We will support Provincial Council of Women by briefor resolutionon our concern for housing for mental patients.

Sincerely

Jean Crowley
Burnaby Council of Women

Jean Crowley

Local Council of Women —
Calgary, Alberta
1834 - 12 Avenue N. W.
T2N 1J4

February 8, 1988

Dear Rosslyn,

Re: Statement of Work - Homelessness Program

I am replying to the questions re our program called "The Homeless: Focus on Child Abuse".

1. (did the panel discussion focus the public's attention on the needs of the destitute in your area?)

Yes, insofar as children are concerned. Our topic focussed on homeless children as we felt there was a need to address this issue.

2. (is there a lack of affordable housing in your area?) We cannot answer this question.

This was not a matter of affordable housing, but rather a search for a solution to the problem facing children who for one reason or another are unable to live at home. There are street children who are in need and at risk, which was one of our concerns.

3. (do those who live below the poverty line have particular needs in your area?) This does not apply to our particular program.

4. (as in 2) - is anyone doing anything about them? Who is? What are they doing?)
see separate report.

5. Two reports have been sent in, along with our program agenda for the year, copies of advertisements, along with our statement of expenses and receipts. I am enclosing the agenda for our Jan. 26 meeting which shows that Pastor John Robinson spoke to us as a follow-up to the Homelessness program.

Our program perhaps deviates somewhat from the original intent. However, we had already planned our program when we received the details etc. but felt that our topic would fit into this theme. These young people can indeed be classed as "homeless" and this is a problem that needs to be addressed. It was a most worthwhile program. We learned a great deal about a social problem that is far more serious than we had ever imagined.

I hope that this is in order. Will look forward to meeting you at National.

Sincerely,

Jean Mekitian, President

Feb. 8, 1988.

HOMELESSNESS - Common Program - Calgary Local Council of Women

4. (2b) The Salvation Army Children's Village (as related by Major Elva Jolly) helps young children who are having problems at home and who for one reason or another are unable to live at home. A home is provided for them at the Children's Village and counselling with the child and family takes place so that the children may eventually be reunited with their families. Length of stay varies depending on circumstances. They may stay during a crisis period only. There may be an interim period when the child may go home for a part of the day, but still lives in the Village. Some children stay several years until things stabilize.

Our Council undertook this program in October because we felt that, without help, these children could end up in serious trouble.

Follow-up:

Pastor John Robinson,director of The Mustard Seed Church, was invited to speak at our meeting of Jan. 26, 1988. This church is under the Baptist Church. An old home adjacent to the Baptist Church was renovated for this purpose. It is for runaways and castaways seen at the doors of the church. Services in the Mustard Seed Church are held on Sundays at 1:15 p.m. for all ages. However, an attempt is made to provide an informal setting in order to attract the runaways. With some counselling, homes are found for children over 16 so that they will live in a family setting. Children under 16 are taken care of by the Social Services Dept. The Mustard Seed Church has been in operation for 3 years and is a new concept in operation to help these runaways.

Some other agencies which help Homeless children:

The Boys and Girls Clubs have recreational facilities for children 6 - 17 years old primarily. One of these clubs is Avenue 15 which provides sleeping facilities for a maximum of two weeks for children 12 - 17 years old who are runaways. It is open 24 hours a day. They help the street children who hear about the club by word of mouth, etc. Working with the family and Social Services Dept. they find suitable homes for them. Avenue 15 was set up followinng a study which was done by the University of Calgary School of Social Work. They found there were two distinct groups of runaway and homeless youth: the "runners" and the "in and outers". It is difficult to gain their confidence. There appears to be a street "welfare system" particularly for the runners,who find friends to help them and who engage in illegal activities. The runners are more likely to have experienced physical and sexual abuse.

The director of Avenue 15 estimates there could be from 100 to 150 street children at any one given time.

Exodus is an agency which helps prostitutes. They have a 12 step program of counselling. Average age is about 16 - 22 years, but some may be as young as 14. 99 of them have a background of incest, rape and physical abuse. They run away and end up on the streets which they find safer than their own homes. Exodus is a large three story house which becomes home for them until they become rehabilitated.

PANEL DISCUSSION FORT. ST. JOHN LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

NEEDS OF THE DESTITUTE:
- Education in self reliance
- a job and job training
- relief from addiction
- a home and food
- direction, advice (a buddy system?)

LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING - Education on-
- ways to supplement their housing
- ways to purchase their own
- helped find jobs that also include house
- knowing the right agencies to help them.

PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THOSE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL (single parent familys ond other welfare)
- welfare
- work training
- available clothes
- food banks

HARD TO HOUSE
- Include them in Community programmes to give hope and pride
- training in what is expected of tenants for cleanliness and not to destruct the place of residence.
- relief from addiction.

We need a drop in centre where this type of people can do work to earn credits for
- food (served there on the premises?
- bingo playing
- entertainment (hockey,music,free passes to entertainment that is in the town)
- craft supplies, chance to use a sewing machine.

We also need a day care centre to teach and care for the young.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PANEL - FORT ST. JOHN

Day Care centre's can fight homelessness if they also teach what a home is, as well as look after them physically. A day Care Centre could be the core of a larger centre which had a place for school age children whose mothers came home late from work.
There should also be a training centre for teen age children to be able to go for direction to educate themselves, through existing educational facilities like vocational schools, apprenticeships, organized sport, local business jobs. Referal and job placement assistance.

Staff for such a school could be assisted by volunteers
female-help supervise children,etc.
males -transportation,work supervision of boys, game leaders
Doctors or nurses - health and cleanliness
Police- safety, law and order.

Children could be taught by doing-food preparation
-cooking
- cleaning
repairing
-shopping for food
-entertainment: clubs, teams,music, drama
games, make their own videos.

Good day care would help erase
-juvenile delinquency
- adult crime
-alcohol and drug dependency, Aids and teen age pregnancy.
- the down grading of our society

REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF WOMEN
FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.

REE: SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

Meape House accomodates women and children in need -see enclosure.

Children are looked after through Childrens Aide Society and fostering.

There is a hostel plus $10.00 per day for people caught in town in an emergency situation. They are usually recommended by the Police or Social Services. It is paid for by welfare.

There is a drop in centre run by the Women's Resource Society. This has many volunteers and help from the Local Council of Women. It is funded by the B.C, Government. There is also a Community Resource society. They administer meals on wheels, homemakers and they keep a registry for baby sitting with reliable trained persons. We have neighbourhood watch and safe houses for the school children. We need a centre for training and placing teen age children. There is such a service for holiday employment in the summer only. We also need a day care centre. There is a play school for pre-school children, a little expensive for many.

Social Services are prepared to help people in need with advice, money, etc.

There is an emergency Landlords Association to supply emergency apartments.

In B.C. there is an Emergency Programme being planned in case of natural or Civil disasters occuring in any area. We are having the co-ordinator speak to our Council as they are looking for many Volunteers to help run this registration.

MEAOPE TRANSITION HOME

Meaope is a residential chrisis facility that provides:

a) emergency shelter
b) referrals
c) information for women and their children in need

Established in 1980, sponsored by the North Peace Community Resources Society, Meaope home is the communitie's request for a safe home to house:

a) battered women
b) women and children in the process of separation, divorce, maintenance or custoky problems.
c) women who fear for their personal safety, or for that of their children, because of violence in the home.
d) relocating women seeking temporary accomodation
e) women dicharged from, or waiting to be admitted to the hopital

Meaope Home, coming from the Cree word meaning peaceful time out, is a large comfortable family orientated home which can accomodate up to ten adults and children, eating, sleeping and recreational facilities. The home is open 24 hours a day and provides a safe environment for women in order that they may examine their situation and contemplate options available to them. The home is maintained by caring supportive staff as well as community volunteers and local donations.

FORT ST. JOHN

RE: RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELDERLY, DISABLED, LOW INCOME AND SINGLE FAMILY:

As a rental assistance programme 40 units of BC Social Housing is available in our city for income tested people.

Twelve of these units are for senior citizens, the remainder are for single parents, or low income families. These units are located at various areas within the city.

The city of Fort St. John feels comfortable at this time with the services available regarding support and counselling for the new single parent. However, there is still a great need for subsidized housing in our city; a special need for 2-bedroom units for senior citizens and single parents.

Unfortunately more and more people rely on social assistance, and more and more adults who have reached the age of 50 are losing their jobs and are finding it necessary to rely on welfare or some means of housing assistance.

We do, however, have 76 townhouse units of Co-operative housing in our city. These units which were originally for families only are now available for single parent families and senior citizens. They are located close to schools, shopping and bus stops.

Rent controls have been lifted from our Province and as yet we have not seen any real ill effects, but only because we have so many vacant houses and apartments.

The Council of the city of Fort St. John are well aware of the implementation of "Spot Rezonings" in our city and are therefore keeping a watchful eye on maintaining a neighbourhood atmosphere within our Community.

C.M.H.C. have recently purchased 20 units of Native Housing within our city and we are very pleased to report that those native families are fitting in very well in our community. These houses are located in various sub-divisions of the city.

The building by-laws of our city are of National standard and are therefore complying with facilitating rehabilitation and redevelopment in the best interests of Community planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Fraser

Convenor of Housing & Community planning.

FORT ST. JOHN

REPORT ON FT. ST. JOHN NATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY

as given to The Local Council of Women

The Society had it's beginning from the B.C. Metis Association, when Fred House was the B.C. President. Some of the same members are in the houses of this Society. Some other members broke away from this Society.

To start a survey-was done to determine how the Native families were being housed in this city. It was found that many families were in slum dwellings and being charged so much that little money was left for food, and other necessary things. The families were also overcrowded, because they could not all afford houses at the prices charged. The landlords would not keep these places in good repair, therefore heating cost were also very high. So the need of something else was very apparent.

In 1985 the Ft. St. John Native Society was formed and the same year money was borrowed from CMHC to purchase twenty homes. The families in these homes are low-income families-the rent is determined on a percentage of their gross income-be it UI,Assistance or work.The families were always here-in spite of the fact the gossip is that-"There are more Natives around" since the Society got these homes.The only difference is that these people now live in decent homes.

Like any other Society this one is run by a Board. We also have other committees-I help on all of them. My job as manager is to collect the rent each month and deposit same-do the bookkeeping-paying all bills, and when repairs or maintenance needed to act accordingly-answer and write letters.

As anywhere else the tenants have to sign a lease and keep their homes and yards in good condition. There are periodic inspections made. Tenants can be charged for damage and neglect if necessary.

The priority for tenants is large families on low income, and single parents with three or more children, and, or people paying excessive rent.

The families we have work together on different things and all strive for more education , courses and training to make their lives better.

As the Housing Manager-a part-time job-I can truthfully say that I enjoy my job,and working with these families. The people in these homes are lovely people, and assets to our city. I"ve known some of these people for many years as I have lived here 22 years. serving on many boards, and doing Volunteer work.

Submitted by Charlotte Kehler
Housing Manager
Ft. St. John Native Housing Society

November-1987

Charlotte Kehler

1987-INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE HOMELESS

Our Homeless

Who are they?
Who is helping them and how?
What problems exist in reaching the homeless
and in providing shelter to them?
What does the future hold for our homeless?

a program

sponsored by

LONDON COUNCIL OF WOMEN

and

LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

in conjunction with the

1987 COMMON PROGRAM

of the

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

October 27, 1987

7:30 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DU
LOGEMENT DES SANS-ABRI

1987

The London Council of Women program "OUR HOMELESS" was organized in response to the appeal by the National Council of Women of Canada for participation of Local Councils in the 1987 NCWC Common Program in celebration of 1987 - International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Women of Canada.

Excellent co-operation was received from the London Public Libraries' Community Relations Department who were happy to co-sponsor our London program and provided the expertise of their media and promotions staff as well as providing the Central Library Auditorium and sound system free of charge. Their assistance made the task of coordinating the program an easy one.

Our program took the form of a panel presentation followed by a question period. Our panelists were knowledgeable and articulate, representing resources/service agencies serving London's homeless.

Over 75 persons attended an informative, thought-provoking program which took a positive position - London does have homeless persons but London also has services available for those persons to use. In the audience were service providers, seniors, youth, homeless, unemployed, individuals and families. It would have been useful if more homeless from hostels and group homes had been present for the program. Notices and invitations were sent to shelters and transient housing inviting these persons to attend and to present their concerns.

The program indicated that some of our London services are inadequate, that we need to work as a community to broaden and improve those services. The momentum created by our speakers must be continued by those who listened and who care. Councils of Women are recognized for the depth of their research, for their education of members and most importantly of all, for the resulting action and advocacy.

The London Council of Women will do its part by advocating for change municipally and provincially, undertaking the recommendations of this report.

Aileen Symington, President
London Council of Women

Jane Struthers, Program Chairman
London Council of Women

Connie Cunningham, Convenor
Housing and Community Planning
London Council of Women

> "Homelessness is not confined to those people who literally live on the streets. Rather, the term homeless encompasses individuals and even whole families who find themselves unable to maintain secure shelter for any reasonable length of time in housing that is both adequate to their needs and affordable."

OPENING REMARKS - Aileen Symington, President
London Council of Women

A very special welcome to all of you who have come tonight to join with the London Council of Women as we hold our second annual COMMON PROGRAM.

At the National Council of Women of Canada Annual Meeting held in Regina last Spring, national delegates voted on this topic in order to observe the United Nations "1987 - International Year of Shelter for the Homeless". Our London Council topic is - OUR HOMELESS.

Each Local Council of Women across Canada plans to hold a Common Program meeting during the week of October 26 to 30, discussing specific problems of the "homeless in their area". We chose October 27th to commemorate the founding of the National Council of WOmen of Canada on October 27, 1893. Let us hope that the impact of such a nation-wide week of " Homeless Awareness" will set a lot of wheels in motion to remedy Canada's homeless problems.

This week is also a very significant one to the National Council of Women of Canada in that this Thursday, October 29th, there is to be a Plaque Unveiling Ceremony at Government House in Ottawa. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an advisory body which makes recommendations to the Minister of Environment regarding people, places and events it deems to be of national significance, has designated Lady Ishbel Aberdeen, founder of the National Council of Women of Canada and wife of the Governor General of Canada from 1983 to 1898, as an individual of historic significance. Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauve, Governor General of Canada has graciously agreed to unveil the bronze plaque. Lady Aberdeen also helped to establish the Victorian Order of Nurses in 1897.

Through the years, housing has been an ongoing concern of Council at all levels. Council pressed the Government of Canada in 1947 for low interest loans and financial aid to local authorities for low rental housing; asked for the development of a National Housing Policy in 1949; and, among other items in 1982, urged the federal government to renew its commitment to initiate and or improve shelter allowance programs basing them on total family and actual shelter costs.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Connie Cunnigham, our Moderator who will introduce to you our panel of whom we are justifiably proud and who represent many if not all of the problem areas of shelter in our own City of London.

Connie is Convenor of our London Council of Women Standing Committee on Housing and COmmunity Planning and has been a member of the Urban League of London, an umbrella group of 11 agencies, for ten years. The Urban League is a federate of the London Council of Women. Connie is co-ordinator of a re-entry program for women in London and teaches women how to cope with re-entering the work force in a modern, computerized setting. She is on the Board of Directors of one of the first non-profit housing organizations in London, Homes Unlimited. It was the first non-profit housing built under the new federal-provincial guidelines, Jalna Woods containing 63 units of housing.

I will now turn the program over to Connie who will introduce our panelists.

The Moderator welcomed the panelists and intruduced them to the assembly. It was noted that the panelists would be strictly timed with a bell indicating when their time had expired. The moderator asked that all questions be held until all the panelists had spoken.

1987-INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE HOMELESS

Our Homeless

Who are they?
Who is helping them and how?
What problems exist in reaching the homeless and in providing shelter to them?
What does the future hold for our homeless?

PARTICIPANTS: Sheila Davenport - London Urban Resource Centre

Jan Richardson - Executive Director, Women's Community House

Horace Roberts - Mission Services of London, Men's Division

Kym Wolfe - Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Y.O.U.

Howard Pulver - Director of Housing Division, Advisory Council, City of London

Bruce Taylor - Chairman of the Board, Warner Place

Brian Parsons - Community Homes of Western Ontario

MODERATOR: Connie Cunningham - Housing Chairperson, London Council of Women

HOUSING REGISTRY - Sheila Davenport, Executive Director
London Urban Resource Centre

In order to have a job - you need an address

In order to apply for and receive welfare - you need to have an address

The London Housing Registry, born to serve the needs of the community, provides a network of landlords willing to take tenants on limited income.

Potential tenants are interviewed and referred with some 23 to 25 families matched this month.

There are 54 spare rooms for every one homeless person in Ontario

"HOME SHARING" was suggested as a means of making accomodation more affordable for families. The City and the Ministry of Housing are currently providing funding to the London Urban Resource Centre to provide a Home Sharing service.

They have been successful in placing young, homeless men in the Home Sharing program (young men preferred rather than young women), but would like to see the program used for families. Community is less tolerant of young women who find themselves in difficulty.

London has a critical shortage of affordable rental units with 2-3 bedrooms.

There is now a need for a co-signer on a lease if the person is on any form of assistance. This is something new to our city,

MEN'S MISSION - Horace Roberts
Mission Services of London
Men's Division

Mission Services operates four homes in London

Hostel for women has 20 beds (Rolthome) and more beds are needed. Serves mainly women who are under 20.

Men's Mission has 80 beds and 92% occupancy at all times

Over 800 men come through the doors each year

20% of the operating funds come from donations

Do not receive a full diem day rate for young men 16-18 years old but these young men do stay at the mission

Men may stay for 42 days. Anything beyond that - the mission does not receive the full diem rate, but these men are not always in shape to leave. Men leave the London Mission and move on to a Mission or hostel in another city

London needs a hostel to serve men on a longer term. Toronto has such a hostel where men can stay year after year, A new 25 bed addition is to open within 2 months

The needs of London's Homeless are not being adequately met by exisiting services

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED - Kym Wolfe
Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Stressed the need for an address to obtain a job/or welfare

Over 50% of their clients live on their own and many are homeless. Young people are sleeping in the streets in London, in hallways and under cars

Effects go far beyond the basic necessities/emotional impact. HOW CAN THEY KEEP A JOB IF THEY HAVE NO PLACE TO SLEEP, TO CLEAN UP?

Y.O.U. started a housing project similar to the Housing Registry. They advocate for landlords, keep landlord lists, maintain a follow up which reassures landlords, provide loans for first and last months rent when necessary

135 clients used the service in the first 10 months of this year, of which 80% got secure accomodation

The Salvation Army has been working on a Youth Hostel

N'Amerind is also hoping to provide a hostel for native youth

CITY OF LONDON - Howard Pulver, Director
Housing and Program Evaluation
City of London Housing Division
Chairman, Special Study Group
Low Cost Family Rental Accomodation

Singles, couples without children are not being taken care of in present housing programs

City does not know where all the boarding houses are or how many rooms there are available

Trying to stir interest in the rehabilitation of walk-up apartments

A Housing Directory/Resources Book will be available in the near future

A survey indicated there is a need for 600 units of low cost rental housing in London. In 1986, 311 families were on the waiting list for subsidized housing. In 1987, 297 families are on the waiting list with 141 of those in the neediest category. .

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - City of London - Jack Burgardt, Controller
Corporation of the City of London

Has served as London Municipal Council's representative during 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

Canada has a critical need for affordable housing - sited B.C.'s dire needs

London has many programs underway, agencies involved in providing accomodation for the homeless, but we still have a long way to go.

London needs were focused in the TV presentation "The Other London", which showed the homeless

The bottom line always is MONEY - how much can we afford - as a community, province, nation.

THE PROBLEM IS HERE ON OUR OWN DOORSTEP

CO-OPERATIVE/NON-PROFIT HOUSING - Brian Parsons, General Manager
Community Homes of Southwestern Ontario

Despite housing boom, people are still homeless

1500 units of co-op housing have been built in London in the last eight years - self contained community, supportive, provides best possible housing for the sole support mother and her children. Many co-ops have 50% of their units subsidized for families with low income.

Need for housing
- single teens
- second stage (battered women)
- non-profit
- co-operative

Need a coalition of people here to-night to identify people in need, to fit those people into the system, to do field work, to show those in need that they can be provided with a better life.

London draws homeless from the outlying areas.

We must turn all of this energy into something. We must do this with care, with understanding and with equality.

BATTERED WOMEN - Jan Richardson, Executive Director
Women's Community House

Battered women are "homeless"

As a community, London has not responded well to the problem of battered women

There are now 230 shelters for battered women in Canada. In 1986, 60,000 women and 90,000 children were served by these shelters but for every one woman accepted in a shelter, one woman is turned away because of lack of room

Length of stay covered by government funding (3 tiered) of 42 days or six weeks is not adequate to meet woman's needs

This woman comes to the shelter with nothing. Their lives must be reconstructed

An average of 50 landlords are called in the attempt to find the woman and her family accomodation

Women's Community House will accomodate 23 women and children and there is an urgent need for a second house for battered women in London. 2nd Stage Housing - housing for women not quite ready to move out into the community - is being built

IT TAKES EACH OF US TO EFFECT CHANGE

WARNER PLACE - Dr. Bruce Taylor, Chairman
Board of Directors, Warner Place
Bishop Cronyn Anglican Church

Warner Place was created to provide accomodation for low income and handicapped seniors.

Bishop Cronyn Church donated the land and the Church Hall and Sunday School were torn down to make room for the new apartment complex

It is a 61 unit apartment building, 42 - one bedroom and 19 - two bedroom

Four of the units are for the handicapped rents are $450/ 1 bedroom and $500/ 2 bedroom with rent geared to income supplement for 15 units.

Project was funded through CMHC's non-profit program with 35 year guaranteed mortgage.

QUESTION PERIOD

Re. "Home Sharing" - what are the implications re. zoning changes, by-law infringements?

City of London by-law allows up to three unrelated persons per house.

Are these persons placed under the Home Sharing program accepted by the neighbourhood?

There have been no problems. Only singles, especially young men, have been placed in the Home Sharing Program so far. Hope to expand to families.

There should be a poll tax with monies used for housing.

Poll tax has never been suggested for London.

Can we interest developers in donating some of their profits to subsidized housing?

We must as a community stress the needs to the general public and City Council. There is a shortage of land available for co-op and non-profit housing. Projects are lost while waiting for rezoning or available land. The NEED IS NOW. We must make better use of whatever we have through re-hab/single to multiple.

The National Council of Women of Canada has a policy supporting the limited use of shelter allowance. Would the availability of shelter allowance help London's situation?

The problem is the LACK OF AVAILABLE HOUSING. A shelter allowance will not provide/build housing.

When are you guys going to put your bucks where your mouth is? I need accomodation for my pregnant wife and myself.

Questioner was asked if he had tried the Housing Registry and he had. He was asked to speak to the Executive Director of the London Urban Resource Centre during coffee.

COFFEE TIME

A well-attended coffee time was held following the program giving both panelists and those attending an opportunity to dialogue in a relaxed, less formal fashion. Judging by the hum of conversation, we succeeded. This provided those who could not ask their question in the Question Period due to the shortness of time,to seek their answers from the panelists.

"IMMEDIATE" Results of "Homeless" Program

1. Persons attending program and even the panelists themselves, became aware of services in the housing area that they had not been aware of prior to the program.

2. Three ladies from the audience registered in the "Home Sharing" Program with the Housing Registry.

3. The young man who had been unable to find accomodation for himself and his pregnant wife, found an affordable apartment with the assistance of the Housing Registry. The young man has become a client of Youth Opportunities Unlimited and he and his counsellor are now working towards full-time employment or a training placement.

4. An Ad Hoc Housing Group composed of the panel speakers has been created and will meet quarterly to discuss the present needs of Londoners and up-coming trends in shelter requirements.

5. An Emergency Resolution "Land Supply for Non-Profit Development" was drafted and submitted to the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario for their consideration and possible presentation to the Government of Ontario in January, 1988.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

That the London Council of Women:

1. undertake an indepth study of the recommendations of the "Report of the London Special Study Group on Low-Cost Family Rental Accomodation, taking appropriate action where feasible.

2. place special attention and time on study of the Home Sharing Program as a viable, economical solution for homeless youth and displaced families.

3. study thepresent needs for increased availability of accomodation for battered women and lend support and take action on obtaining increased accomodation for battered women.

4. review the recommendations of the 1975-One Parent Family Research Study (London Council fo Women), taking action if required.

5. monitor progress of the proposed youth hostels, Salvation Army and N'amerind.

6. develp a resolution to urge the Government of Ontario to provide greatly increased funding for the rehabilitation of existing, older apartment units.

Promotion and Publicity

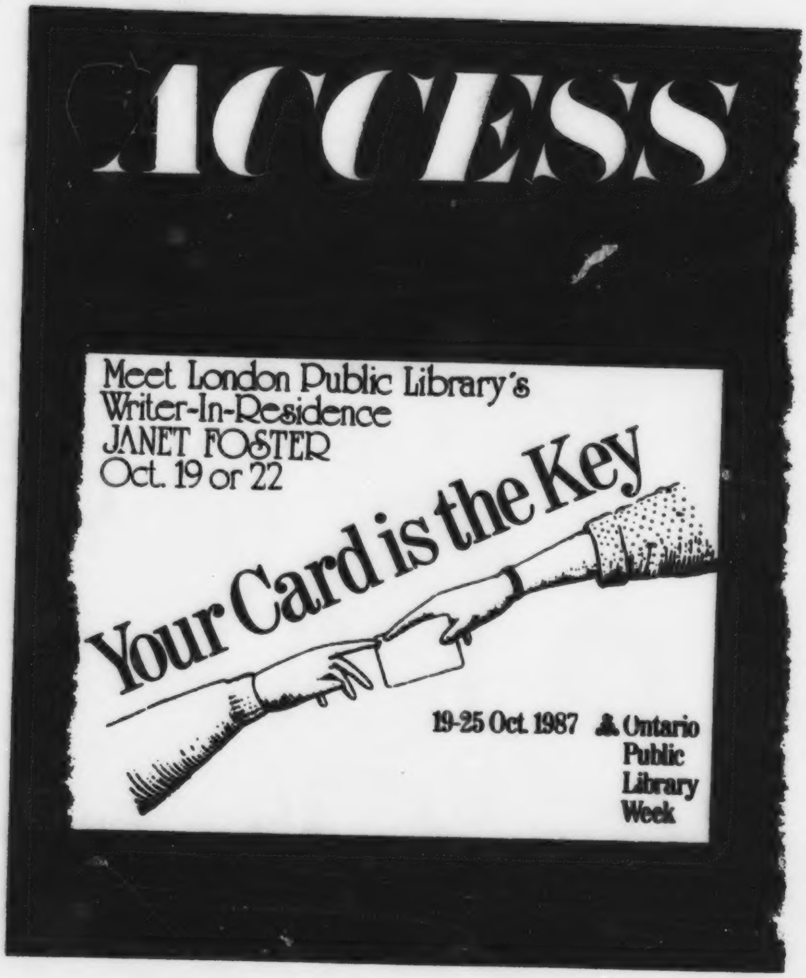
Our Homeless
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 27

1. Public Service Announcements sent October 13, 1987 to list attached. Appeared in London Free Press Tomorrow column Oct. 26 - copy attached. (It is not known if other media print/broadcast this item.)

2. Flyers - 800 were printed. Distributed to all library branches in the city, at all programs at Central Library and throughout Central building. Mailed to aldermen and controllers and selected social service agencies.

3. Paid advertisement - copy attached - appeared in Lifestyles-Perspective section of October 17 London Free Press. Approximate $80 cost was carried by the Library.

4. Promotion also appeared in ACCESS, Library and Museum Newsletter - 7,000 printed. Copies are available in all libraries and museums and are distributed to 47 additional locations across the city including schools, social service agencies, hospitals, etc.



ACCESS

Meet London Public Library's
Writer-In-Residence
JANET FOSTER
Oct. 19 or 22

Your Card is the Key

19-25 Oct. 1987
Ontario
Public
Library
Week

TOMORROW

Oct. 26/87

To submit items for this column write: Tomorrow, The London Free Press, P.O. Box 2280, London, Ontario, N6A 4G1, at least 10 days before desired publication date.

BE YOUR BEST AFTER FIFTY — Classes start the week of Nov. 3 at: Berkshire Club, Wolseley Barracks, Empress United Church, St. Justin United Church, Medway Recreation Centre. Call 667-3300, ext. 246.

CANADIAN ALOPECIA AREATA (HAIR LOSS) ASSOCIATION — London chapter support group for people with partial or total hair loss meets the last Tuesday of every month. Family members and friends welcome. Call 438-9280, 9 to 11 a.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR ADULTS — Crouch branch library, 550 Hamilton Rd., every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Nursery provided. No charge. Register in person or call 673-0111.

WHITE OAKS UNITED CHURCH MORNING OUT — Features speakers, films, demonstrations, discussion, fellowship, Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Nursery provided.

PARENT/CAREGIVER SEMINAR — Nature speaks — listen. Childreach Resource Centre, 396 Dundas St., 10 a.m. No charge. Child care provided. Call 434-3644.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS — Big Book meeting, St. Andrew Memorial Church basement, corner of Wellington and Foxbar roads, 10 a.m. Call 685-8943 days. Open meeting: St. James Westminster Church, 115 Askin St., 7:30 p.m. Call 472-0894 or 438-2897.

MISSION SERVICES LADIES AUXILIARY — Special thanks offering meeting features speaker Fil Cappa, Byron United Church, 1251 Base Line Rd. W. at Boler Road, 12:15 p.m.

HAMILTON ROAD SENIOR CENTRE — Fall fashion show from Marks and Spencer, 2 p.m. Free. Call 661-5758.

TURKEY SUPPER — Nov. 3, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, corner of Brydges and Spruce streets. Settings: 5, 6 and 7 p.m. Advance tickets only. Call 451-6975. Adults $7; children under 12, $3.

Y'S MEN'S CLUB — Meets Tuesdays, September through May, Centre YM-YWCA, 6:29 p.m. Call 667-3300 for membership information.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS — Meeting features Lisa Root and Joan Ball of the Canadian Mental Health Association speaking on suicide in young people. London and Middlesex separate school board office, 165 Elmwood Ave. at Wortley Road, 7 p.m.

CANPACT MEETING — The ministry of the attorney-general will present its support and custody enforcement program. Question and answer period to follow. Landon library, 167 Wortley Rd., 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

OUR HOMELESS — Representatives from various London agencies speak on this topic to mark International Year of the Homeless. Central library auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Reception follows in Room 1. All welcome.

*

UWO FACULTY OF ARTS TAMBLYN LECTURES — Professor Noam Chomsky speaks on the conceptual foundations of the study of language, Room 40, School of Business Administration, 7:30 p.m. No charge. Everyone welcome.

Doubt cast

OUR HOMELESS...

WHO ARE THEY?
WHO IS HELPING THEM?
HOW?
WHAT DOES THEIR FUTURE HOLD?

FIND OUT...

7:30 P.M.
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Panel discussion to mark International Year of the Homeless with moderator Connie Cunningham and representatives from various London agencies. Bring your questions. Reception to follow.

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Londoners rapped for ignoring homeless

By Dahlia Reich
London Free Press

Londoners have done a poor job of looking after each other when it comes to the homeless, the executive director of Women's Community House said Tuesday.

"We're a pretty comfortable people and because we're comfortable we don't look at what's happening," Jan Richardson said. "We don't take much responsibility in taking care of each other. We put a stigma on people who need help. We put them in a box and close our eyes instead of saying they are one of us and it could happen to anyone."

Richardson said "it takes each one of us to effect some change." These changes should be to government policies to ensure "that no person be without a home."

She was among a panel of speakers at the central library discussing the plight of the homeless in London in recognition of United Nation's 1987 International Year of the Homeless. The event, which attracted about 60 people, was sponsored by the London Council of Women.

Women's Community House, an emergency shelter for battered women, who should be included in the homeless population, Richardson said, took in about 420 women and children last year and turned away the same number because of lack of space.

During their stay at the home, staff help find more permanent accommodations for the women and children, a frustrating job because of a lack of low-income housing in the city.

The situation is so serious, she said, the organization is creating a building for use as interim housing for an additional three to six months to allow women more time to adjust and find an apartment. Construction is expected to begin in December.

Horace Roberts, branch director of Mission Services of London, men's division, said emergency programs such as its York Street shelter are penalized if the men stay longer than the allotted 42 days, a common occurrence because of the bed shortage for the homeless.

The service receives $17.78 per person each day from the city to care for the occupants but that figure drops to $13.19 after 42 days, Roberts said. Although the men are encouraged to find accommodation elsewhere, many are unable to do so. No one is asked to leave.

The shelter isn't paid for youths under age 18, he added, unless the young man is approved by the city social services department. It may take a few days to obtain approval but Roberts said the youths are not turned away. The men at the shelter range in age from 16 to 82.

Kym Wolfe of Youth Opportunities Unlimited, an employment counselling service, said being homeless is a vicious circle.

"You need an address to get a job and a job to get an address. It's hard to feel good about presenting yourself for employment if you have no address, didn't sleep the night before, or spent the night on a park bench or under a car."

To be approved for welfare, a person also needs an address, said Sheila Davenport, director of the London Urban Resource Centre, which operates a housing registry for those seeking accommodation. She said low-income three-bedroom apartments are in high demand and it's increasingly difficult to place families.

Helping the homeless

"I'd say there are about 400 men and women in London who could be called homeless, in the sense that they have no fixed place to stay," says Roger Smith, executive director of London's Mission Services. That's a startling figure to those who complacently believe street people are a problem only for big cities and the Third World. But Smith considers it a conservative estimate.

Fortunately, the city is well provided with services to help those in need. Mission Services, the Salvation Army and the hostel it runs, St. Joseph's detoxification centre, the London and area food bank and several smaller coffee house-/food banks are always willing to offer a helping hand.

Sadly, though, people can't be helped if they won't try to help themselves.

As both Smith and Austin Miller, director of the Salvation Army's 100-bed hostel, have observed, many individuals live on the street because they prefer it to a hostel, where they resent the restrictions.

In a free country, people can't be forced to accept help. If they prefer to sleep in parks and along riverbanks rather than accept rules, that is their privilege.

Still, it is to the the community's credit that facilities with committed staff provide assistance without making judgments. St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre, for example, helped 370 people to dry out in August. According to centre supervisor Bob Fleming, one man has been to the centre more than 500 times "but there's always hope — we never give up. Some guys come in 200 or 300 times and then suddenly they decide to try and change themselves."

Not so fortunate are the mentally disturbed who have been released from psychiatric hospitals under a program aimed at reducing institutionalization and getting individuals back into the community. While the objective is commendable, it's distressing that a large number of disturbed people are slipping through the cracks of the social services system and ending up on the street.

Their tendency to drift away from taking their medication regularly, an inability to handle even small responsibilities and a frustration with being unable to cope with life's irritations contribute to the helplessness of these people.

The Ontario government recognized these difficulties in March, 1986, when it announced that $1.5 million would be provided to repair 17 Ontario boarding houses for ex-psychiatric patients and to finance support programs to help them live in the community. That the program has failed to solve a growing problem is illustrated by the numbers still homeless.

Smith says increasing numbers of mentally ill people have been assisted at the mission during the past 10 years. He estimates that one-fifth of the 80 beds are generally filled with people who have psychiatric problems.

The mission is trying to ease the situation with a program in which a nurse and case manager provide life skills assistance. Though rehabilitiation and self-reliance are the ultimate goals, it should be acknowledged that some people lack the personal skills and health to recover. Helping them to cope is all that can be expected.

Now that former psychiatric patients have been returned to the community there is a need for more effective monitoring by case workers to ensure they are taking their medication and coping with the outside world, to help them deal with frustrating bureaucratic rules and to ensure that they receive the attention and financial assistance they need.

The London Free Press
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138—Thursday, October 8, 1987

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

LAND SUPPLY FOR NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT

Whereas, one of the most critical elements for the successful operation of the private and co-operative non-profit corporations is the availability of an adequate supply of land. The land must be appropriately zoned and serviced within a few months; and

Whereas, until recently many registered plans of subdivision contained undeveloped blocks of land zoned for rowhouse development. This supply has diminished significantly by both increased non-profit development and by rezoning for lower density residential uses and commercial uses. The areas which are available are often near exisiting non-profit developments and therefore less desirable from the point of view of integrating non-profit development into the fabric of the community; and

Whereas, there is no provincial legislation which enables a municipality to reserve sites in a plan of subdivision for non-profit housing development; and

Whereas, Section 36 of the Planning Act, the only available mechanism which allows a municipality to make certain requirements of a developer in return for specified increases in height or density of development to be permitted, does not seem to be an appropriate mechanism for achieving sites suitable for low cost family housing; therefore,be it

Resolved, that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to pass enabling legislation which will permit municipalities to require that developers of any major plans of subdivision (50 acres and over), reserve for up to 5 years, 10 percent of the land to be used for development which will provide rent supplement units or sold for the development of non-profit housing at market value.

*The above resolution has been submitted as a direct response to concerns and recommendations brought forward at the London Council of Women Program "OUR HOMELESS" on October 27, 1987 in celebration of 1987 - International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Background:

Report of the Special Study Group - LOW COST FAMILY RENTAL ACCOMODATION, City of London.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP -
LOW COST FAMILY RENTAL ACCOMODATION
City of London, Special Study Group

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. The City facilitate the processing of re-zoning applications required for proposed private and co-operative non-profit family housing developments taking into consideration the time constraints of the Ministry of Housing application process.

2. In the review and approval of plans of subdivison the City encourage all developers of significant plans of subdivision to provide rowhouse blocks suitable for family non-profit development.

3. The Province be petitioned to pass enabling legislation which will permit municipalities to require that developers of any major plans of subdivision reserve for up to 5 years not more than 25 percent of the land to be used for development which will provide rent supplement units or sold for the development of non-profit housing at market value.

4. The Province be requested to review their land holdings, including land in the vicinity of the London Psychiatric Hospital and the CPRI, to determine if land can be made available for non-profit family housing.

5. The Director of Housing and Program Evaluation be directed to proceed as soon as possible to extend the existing inventory of serviced residential land to include residential land at other stages in the development and approval process.

6. The Ministry of Housing be requested to extend the Low-Rise Rehabilitation Program to include all buildings built prior to 1970 including buildings which have more than 4 storeys.

7. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation be requested to provide increased assistance to meet the need for the rehabilitation of rental units, either through the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program or other incentives.

8. The Director of Housing and Program Evaluation be authorized to prepare and submit the necessary application for a grant under the Municipal Building Profile Program.

9. The property standards by-law enforcement procedure and complaint number be advertised in Civic Corner in the June and October of each year.

10. Upon completion of the inventory of rental housing stock under the Municipal Building Profile Program, the Director of Housing and Program Evaluation be directed to contact rental property owners with property standards deficiencies to encourage them to take advantage of available rehabilitation assistance.

11. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing be requested to continue to provide the required program funding to stimulate the production of rent geared to income units with the appropriate bedroom count to meet the need on the waiting list.

12. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing be requested to provide appropriate programs and funding to assist with housing for refugees.

13. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing be requested to provide the required funding for subsidized units for families to reduce the waiting list to a reasonable level.

14. The Board of Directors of all private and co-operative corporations in London be requested to seriously consider the development of a common waiting list, in co-operation with the London and Middlesex Housing Authority and the Ministry of Housing, to provide a better service to those in need of assistance and a better indicator of assisted housing need.

15. The Ministry of Housing be requested to modify the application approval process for the Private and Co-operative Non-Profit Program to permit groups who are able to proceed immediately to get an early project commitment.

MONTREAL

Date February 2, 1988

To Mrs. R. Tetley, Coordinator
Common Programme 1987

From Kay Aksich
President, MCW

Subject Homelessness

The Montreal Council of Women presented a panel discussion on "Interim Relief Housing" on January 20, 1988 as part of the NCW's common programme for the year of the homeless.

The Panel consisted of:
Moderator Judith Murray, CBC Producer and Writer
and panelists :
John Gardiner, Member of the Executive Committee of Montreal, responsible for Housing and Urban Development
Fran Riley, Executive Director of Auberge Transition
Elizabeth Tremain, President of Chez Doris

Each panelist made a ten-minute presentation outlining the scope of their agency and their work. Questions were responded to in great detail at the end of the presentations.

Specific instances were cited to illustrate the problems. Other organizations present contributed valuable information, e.g. The Salvation Army describing the work of their new Women's Refuge.

The excellent attendance was due to the broad publicity in all the local papers, radio stations, our bulletin for the month of January, and a paid advertisement in the Gazette.

We feel we succeeded in focusing the public attention to the problem of homelessness and attracted not only our members but people from the field of social work and other areas of interest.

John Gardner stated the number of homeless in Montreal is about 10,000, this number is measured by those who cannot count on a place to rest for the next sixty days. The greatest need is in the 18-30 year old age group. This group lives downtown, finding shelter in private rooming houses, refuges or missions. The actual number of rooms available in Montreal has dropped from 15,000 to 9,000 at present.

The city has :

- 20 land parcels available for the creation of future housing for the homeless
- a 24-hour referral service for homeless will come into being this month
- two new refuges opened in Montreal in 1987 - the Women's Refuge of the Salvation Army and one in the basement of the St. Louis

de France church
Fran Riley presented a brief history of the Auberge Transition which was founded in 1975. Some of her fact-filled talk covered the following :

- The Auberge accepts only women and children
- it is funded 75% by the Provincial Govern,ent and 25% by the private sector
- the mandate has changed from homeless women to battered women and children to meet current needs
- 62% of these battered women do not return to their mates, requiring affordable housing
- average of women is between 18 and 29 years old
- many are on welfare
- a great number of women are on welfare and cannot cash the cheques they receive without a bank account. The Auberge takes them to the bank to get their cheques cashed but on receiving one lump sum the money disappears quickly.
- a goal is to have subsidized housing with attendant social services such as day care, to ensure protection of mother and children encouraging them to lead a proper life

Elizabeth Tremain also stated that stable housing with social service support would solve many of the problems of the women who come to Chez Doris.

- Chez Doris provides 75 - 80 regular members who have found decent housing with breakfast and lunch, enabling them to stretch their budgets
- the circle of street, rooming house and jail creates a great cost of maintaining a woman who may end up in the psychiatric wards of Douglas Hospital or prison because of lack of proper shelter, compared to the very much lower cost of helping her find a place in a rooming house.
- it is more effective to pay now for housing and social services than to deal with the consequences in the long run.
- Elizabeth Tremain recommended that each one of us write to every level of government demaning that rooming houses be saved and made safe and decent, thereby saving homeless people
- the monumental task of looking at pverty and controlling the existing housing stock starts with the City of Montreal administration and local groups and individuals

The conclusion of the meeting can be summarized as follows :
We must make out collective voices heard at all levels of government but the government and private sector must work together. The city has various committees working on the problems and starting to work with local groups and communities and perhaps we would get involved in this area.

PREVIOUSLY, on January 14, 1987 the Montreal Council of Women together with the Federation des Femmes du Quebec and the National Council of Jewish Women of Montreal (referred to as Conjoint) wrote to Mr. Michael Fainstat, President of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal requesting a meeting with the Executive Committee in March to discuss the 1987 year of the "Housing and Homeless" which is one of our priorities. The meeting took place in March at which time we reviewed the 1986 commitments made by Mr. Dore's Election Campaign and a meaningful exchange took place with the city councillors present and the Conjoint representatives.

JAN

YWCA

Young Women's Christian Association of Niagara Falls

Housing in Our Community
"WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES ? "

Summary Report of Public Forum
November 10th , 1987

Prepared by
Social Justice Committee
Y.W.C.A. Niagara Falls

Sponsored by [illegible]

JAN 1

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The current group homes by-law in the City of Niagara Falls is restrictive and makes it difficult to provide supportive housing for persons who are psychiatrically disabled.

- There is a need for second stage housing, especially women who have left abusive home situations. NOVA only allows a woman to remain for 30 days, plus a 30 day extension, if required. ("A SHELTER IS NOT A HOME ")

- The waiting list for persons who require assisted housing is too long - some people wait for almost one year before a unit is made available. The current point system to gain admittance to assisted housing is not always fully understood by applicants.

- The majority of moderate to low-income people have difficulty in meeting the demands of landlords for first and last month's rent, before they can lease an apartment.

- Single people who do not qualify for assisted housing units because they are not a "family", often reside in motel rooms but are required to leave and make alternative arrangements during the tourist season.

- Out of the 21 beds at the YWCA for women, 10 are allocated for women who are experiencing mental health problems, but presently the YWCA does not receive any funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services or the Ministry of Health to provide this type of supportive living environment, although life skills training and counselling are available.

- Young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who live in unstable homes do not have sufficient choices if it becomes necessary to leave the family home. There are not enough foster homes which can provide a caring and supportive environment for those under sixteen. For those over sixteen, the YWCA attempts to provide a stable, home-like environment.

- Social assistance benefits are inadequate and/or rents are too high in the private market as many people are spending 40 to 80 per cent of their income on rent. This results in the necessity of many people having to resort to using the services of the local food cupboard in order to feed themselves or their families adequately.

- Fifty per cent of cases to the Niagara North Legal Assistance office involve landlord and tenant problems - including apartments in need of repair, sub-standard housing conditions and discrimination.

- Non-profit co-ops are becoming a popular housing alternative but zoning by-law problems hamper efforts to secure funding for these proposed projects.

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice or World Service Committee has been in existence many years at the YWCA and traditionally focussed on "helping" others in third world countries. Three years ago, the local Committee decided to become more involved in social issues affecting the local YWCA. With this in mind, the Social Justice Committee formulated a new mission statement. (Appendix A)

As its first public event, a forum was presented in 1986 titled, "Prostitution - the Reality". This was an attempt to inform the community about several aspects of this social issue because of the proliferation of this type of activity in Niagara Falls. Our 1987 public forum was "Housing in our Community - What are Your Choices?" and specifically relates to this report.

The Social Justice Committee consists of people from various backgrounds in order to provide us with a broad perspective. Currently, we have people who work in the social services sector, people from the business sector, people who utilize social assistance programs and others who are politically involved in this community.

INTRODUCTION

1987 has been named International Year of Shelter for the Homeless by the United Nations. According to Canadian Council on Social Development homelessness refers to people who cannot afford adequate housing as well as people living on the street. Poverty, hunger and homelessness are three dimensions of the same problem.

More than 100,000 Canadians were actually homeless at some time during 1986. Over 1.2 million meals were served by shelters and soup kitchens. Particularly hard hit are the young people under 18 from homes where parents have separated, or where there is family violence or apathy. These young people frequently slip through the cracks in the system and end up homeless.

One Canadian woman in ten is battered and too often faces the choice of unaffordable housing or returning to an abusive situation.

The CCSD enumerates four major direct causes of homelessness:

- unemployment
- inadequate social assistance benefits (ranging from 85% of poverty lines to 39%)
- low cost housing is disappearing
- deinstitutionalization of psychiatric patients

Locally, the rental vacancy rate has been below one per cent since 1983 and in 1986 and 1987 was .6% or 6 apartments out of 1000 were available at any one time. A rate of 3 per cent vacancy is considered adequate. Currently buildings under construction consist mainly of shopping malls, hotels and condominium projects.

There are several methods used to determine poverty levels, but this report will utilize Statistics Canada, (See Appendix B). Stats Canada poverty line for one person is $10,108.00, for 2 people it's $13,365.00 and $20,628.00 for a family of four. Locally, 20 per cent of the population fall below the poverty line, which can be broken down into 13 per cent of families and 42 per cent of singles. It could be noted that 37 per cent are employed people. Earning the minimum wage for a 40 hour week would equal $9,048.00 annually. Even 2 people working full time at minimum wage would not bring a family of four to the poverty line. Thus problems commonly arise when people have to pay from 40 to 80 per cent of income on housing in Niagara Falls.

Housing in Canada is largely subject to the demands of a changing and volatile marketplace - for example house prices in Niagara Falls increased 24 per cent during the last 12 months. (The average price of a house in this city in 1987 was $80,000.00.)

What is the role of government? Two basic responsibilities could be to respond to social issues which the marketplace cannot do and to regulate behaviour in the marketplace so that people are not unduly victimized by it. There is much room for creative forms of social housing Canada. Thus communities like Niagara Falls can create a real sense of community for all its citizens and not widen the gap between the "haves" and "have nots". Innovations in property acquisition, property management, design, building materials and creative partnerships in developing and financing could lead to new options - examples such as granny flats, co-ops and the Bethlehem project in St. Catharines.

Food banks have become the symbol of the trio - poverty, hunger and homelessness. It appears to be cheaper and easier to dispense charity than to attempt to change systems. We live in a society that now accepts an unemployment rate of 10 per cent. So, society should look at institutions and attitudes of indifference that reinforce the pattern of injustice which cause the gaps between "us" and "them".

HOUSING FORUM SUMMARY

Twelve panelists were invited by the Social Justice Committee of the YWCA of Niagara Falls, to present their views on the housing situation in Niagara Falls. Many were service providers and some were representative of government funded bodies. Several major issues emerged from the discussion that took place on November 10th, with over 100 people in attendance. Some members of the audience were recipients of social assistance programs, some were service providers and some were interested citizens, but many had questions - most of which remained unanswered. This report will repeat the questions and seek replies for those who were not satisfied with all the information they received at the Forum. The following is a summation of the major issues that were brought forward at the housing meeting.

1. Four panelists out of the twelve identified a very real need for housing for the psychiatrically disabled. The major obstacle in Niagara Falls appears to be a restrictive by-law which allows for only one type of group home for this client - Adult Community Mental Health Supportive Living Program. The sponsoring agency, which is the Canadian Mental Health Association has been able to open a group home under this by-law but it is a "temporary use" by-law and must be reviewed after a period of one year. This has created many obstacles, such as finding a suitable home to rent which meets all municipal by-laws including fire codes, building codes, occupancy, etc. At present four people can be accommodated at this home. CMHA is to be commended for their work and persistence in opening this home. What does this community propose to do with other people who would benefit from this type of environment? It would appear that we prefer to place them in unsupervised boarding homes or allow them to continue to use the revolving door at the local psychiatric wing of the hospital.

2. Numerous panelists mentioned that a major problem for many members of our community is the practice of landlords who demand first and last month's rent prior to leasing an apartment to a prospective tenant. This amount of money is almost impossible to raise, especially if one is on social assistance or working for minimum wage. One panelist did defend the landlord's position on this issue because many have been "burned" by tenants who have left apartments in conditions of disrepair.

3. Several panelists, as well as Greater Niagara Big Sisters Association, who submitted a brief, mentioned that there is also a problem in this community in appropriately housing young people from the ages of 12 to 18. Emergency shelters are not the answer, according to some members of the panel. Vulnerable teens who have intolerable home situations need a stable and safe environment in order to grow into caring and productive adults.

4. While East Niagara Housing Authority provides housing for families, there is a long waiting list with 176 names on file (as of November 87). There is also a concentration of female-led sole parent families living in these units and once their last child has left home, the parent must find other accommodation, as the units are meant for "families".

5. Single people in this community are not eligible for assisted housing as they are not a "family". Many live in motel rooms in the off season but are expected to make other arrangements once the tourist season begins in the spring.

6. Women who leave abusive home situations have an emergency shelter available but there is little choice as to where to live after this. There is no second stage or long term housing in this community to meet the needs of these women.

7. Community minded groups such as the Stamford Kiwanis, Niagara Peninsula Homes and municipal non-profit corporation are entering the housing market and are attempting to provide moderate to low cost housing through co-operative projects and other special types of government funded housing.

8. The Social Planning Council of Niagara Falls has a Housing Committee which is researching housing for the psychiatrically disabled. It also has a group homes by-law review committee, according to the representative on our panel.

9. Jack Bernardi of City Hall Building Department pointed out that there is a Rental Housing Protection Act which was implemented in 1986, which states that if there are more than four rental units in a building and the owner wants to demolish the building, he/she must first have approval from city council.

CONCLUSIONS

The Social Justice Committee of the YWCA of Niagara Falls has not attempted to provide an in-depth report. The information contained is based on research and reflects the concern made public at the Forum. The mandate of the Social Justice Committee of the YWCA is to study social concerns at both a local and national/international level, especially as it pertains to women; thus our interest and concern regarding housing problems in the city of Niagara Falls.

We have concluded there really is a feminization of poverty:

- Poor women have poor children. This does not in any way discount the many males who suffer the effects of poverty, but it does recognize that more women experience poverty than men.
- It is women who are forced to leave abusive situations and stay in shelters while the abusing partner may remain in the family home.
- More often than not after a marriage break-up, women retain custody of the children and the responsibility of raising them; collecting child support payments can be difficult and many find themselves on some form of social assistance.
- The majority of tenants in assisted housing projects are female led single parent families.
- Although more single men than single women use the community food cupboard (C.O.E.S.), more female-led single parent families still must go to this service and ask for "free" food to make ends meet and feed their children.
- The majority of women who work still earn only 66% of what men earn. Many work in "pink collar ghettoes" and do not have pension or health plans, thus leaving less money for housing costs.
- Even in two-parent families, the woman must work in order to afford a "decent" home.

Thus, poverty, housing and hunger are interlinked. When one is poor, one has very little choice as to where one is going to live.

Following are the questions raised by participants and formulated by the Social Justice Committee.

1. Several years ago the Regional Municipality of Niagara issued a directive urging all municipalities to give "as of right" zoning to all ten types of group homes.

   Research conducted by the SJC/YWCA indicates that there are four types of group homes allowed "as of right" zoning in Niagara Falls. These four categories were already in existence before the by-law was approved in 1984. When will the current by-law be amended to include all other types of group homes?

2. The Group homes by-law states that "no such home or residence shall be located closer than .....350 metres to another group home." Does this City consider foster homes as group homes even though the provincial government recognizes the difference between a foster home and a group home as stated in their resource guide to group homes?

3. C.O.E.S. has provided temporary assistance to the community but does it provide long term solutions?
   Has this community reached a level of acceptance of poverty to such an extent that we consider using a food cupboard a viable alternative for our less fortunate neighbour?

4. Many people cannot afford first and last months rent. Who is responsible for alleviating the problem - government or private sector?

5. The Ontario Government provides housing which is managed locally by the East Niagara Housing Authority. The waiting list for these units is very long and some families wait almost a year for space. Although the common concern is not to ghettoize people with low incomes, why is there such a shortage of available assisted units?

6. What is the role of government in providing housing for so-called problem clients who do not seem to fit any categories now recognized?

The preceding report has outlined some of the problems associated with housing in Niagara Falls. We trust City Council will implement these recommendations for action which are within their mandate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

* 1. We understand that City Hall staff is working with the Social Planning Council on a group homes by-law review committee. The Social Justice Committee of the YWCA recommends:
   a) that the new by-law recognize the needs of citizens who are within the mental health network and who may require different levels of care.

   b) that foster homes be defined in the by-law and not be recognized as group homes, to avoid any confusion.

c) that the new by-law be put before city council for approval by the end of March 1988.

* 2. We understand from consultation with the Social Planning Council that C.O.E.S. is planning on expanding its services. The Social Justice Committee endorses these efforts. We recommend to the Social Planning Council that they examine the permanent nature of C.O.E.S. with a view to making it more relevant to the needs of their clients.

* 3. Social Assistance levels are inadequate. We recommend that city council bring this issue to the Social Assistance Review Board.

* 4. The Honourable Chaviva Hosek, Minister of Housing, has announced some funding for social housing. We recommend that city council assist local groups to apply for this type of funding and to endorse local agencies which can provide low-cost housing in a creative and innovative manner, including second stage housing.

* 5. Zoning by-laws sometimes hamper efforts to build non-profit housing projects. We recommend that the City Planning Department look into the feasibility of assisting in land acquisition for this type of development.

* 6. We recognize that Social Planning Council, Niagara Falls, is studying the housing needs of people with mental health problems; we recommend they widen the scope of the study to include the general housing needs of this community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the panelists for their interest in bringing housing information to this community and for their time and concern.

The participants were the most important part of the Forum and we wish to thank everyone who attended the two hour Forum as it was an indication of their interest in our community.

Finally, we must acknowledge the generous support of the Local Council of Women, under the leadership of Mrs. Flo Sandercock. Their contribution was invaluable in furthering the work of the Social Justice Committee of the YWCA.

Appendix A

MISSION STATEMENT

TITLE: SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE YWCA OF NIAGARA FALLS

RESPONSIBLE TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, YWCA OF NIAGARA FALLS

MEMBERSHIP: Not to exceed 10 members. The chairman shall be a Director of the YWCA of Niagara Falls.

PURPOSE:

-to identify and research social issues pertaining to women (locally, nationally, internationally)

-to increase public awareness of issues affecting women

-to monitor government legislation which may be of concern to women

-to develop action plans in an attempt to find solutions to social problems which may have an adverse affect on women and their families

-to promote the YWCA of Niagara Falls as an agency which has a major interest in women's issues and is prepared to advocate on behalf of the women of this community when necessary

-to support Co-operation for Development with a small financial contribution and to remain informed of C for D projects.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

-recruit committee members who express an interest in social concerns

-schedule monthly meetings

-select at least one major issue annually for research and development

-schedule one public awareness event annually, as a result of research

-respond publicly to government policies and/or health and social issues affecting women and their families

-fundraise the Co-operation for Development allotment each year

-network with other YWCA's and social agencies/ organizations who have similar concerns, goals and objectives

EVALUATION: At the end of each year, the Social Justice Committee shall review the work it has accomplished, evaluate the results and make recommendations for the next term.

Appendix B

The Canadian Council on Social Development sets its poverty line for a family of three at one-half of average family income. Its poverty lines for families of different sizes are established by applying a weighting system in which a family unit of one person gets three points; a family of two, five points; a family of three, six points; a family of four, seven points; a family of five, eight points; and each larger size family an additional point. Unlike Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs, the CCSD poverty lines are not adjusted according to size of place of residence because the Council holds that living costs vary neither significantly nor systematically by community size.

The CCSD estimates its 1984 poverty lines as follows: $9,056 for one person; $15,094 for a family of two; $18,113 for three; $21,131 for four; $24,150 for five; and $27,169 for a family of six. Table 2 in our paper shows that Statistics Canada's 1984 low income cut-offs for a one person were $9,844 for a metropolitan area and $9,349 for a city of 100,000 to 499,999, but they were lower than the CCSD line in the case of smaller communities (the CCSD line was $9,056; the Statistics Canada 1984 lines were $8,770 for a community of 30,000 to 99,999, $8,108 for urban centers under 30,000, and $7,280 for rural areas). See Not Enough: The Meaning and Measurement of Poverty in Canada (Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, 1984), pp. 42 and 69.

REFERENCES

1. Mary Ann McLaughlin, research consultant, Canadian Council on Social Development.
2. Rosslyn Tetley, "The Homeless", Project Co-ordinator, National Council of Women.
3. "Local levels of Poverty", Fact Sheet #6, Social Planning and Research Council of St. Catharines.
4. Planning Department - Annual Report 1986, City of Niagara Falls.
5. Steve Elson and Bill Roberts, Network, Niagara's Human Services, Newsletter, (Summer 87).
6. Innovations in Sheltering the Homeless, Canadian Conference to Observe, International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, September 13-16/87, Ottawa, Ontario.
7. Hugh McCullum, Editorial, United Church Observer, May 86.

LONDON COUNCIL OF WOMEN/1987 NCWC COMMON PROGRAM

Statement of Work

1. Panel discussion was given very broad promotion and received good coverage by the London Free Press. Over 75 persons attended and participated quite actively in the discussions.

2. The panel discussion quite clearly pointed out that London has a lack of decent affordable housing and that we do have homeless persons sleeping on the street, in hallways, under cars.
   In 1987, 297 families are on a waiting list for low cost rental housing with 141 of those families in the neediest category.
   The needs of young people on their own, singles, regarding accomodation are not being met.

3. The need for affordable accomodation/shelter is most critical for those living at or below the poverty line but families above the poverty level are also having difficulty and need assistance, i.e. subsidy.

4. Salvation Army and N'Amerind are attempting to establish "youth hostels".
   London has a very active non-profit and co-operative housing movement and expansion is being sought constantly.
   "Second stage" Housing being built for battered women will assist in moving these women back into the general community with an extra step and assistance.
   The "Home Sharing" Program is worthy of further research and expansion.
   The Youth Opportunities Unlimited "housing Registry" is really assisting London's homeless youth.

   See Recommendations for Future Action from Program Report.

5. Report enclosed.

R.R. #1,
New Glasgow, N.S.
B2H 5C4
752-3854

Mrs. Hazel Fraser
President: P. Co. Council of Women
182 Abercrombie Rd.
New Glasgow, N.S.
B2H 1K6

November 17, 1987

Dear Hazel,

You have asked if I would give you some record of the presentation I made at the recent meeting of the Local Council of Women. As I mentioned over the phone, I had no written notes, due to the nature of a panel discussion. However I am able to recall the general tenor of what I was saying at that time. What follows should sound familiar from our time together.

I am grateful for having been asked to join this discussion this evening. I feel somewhat stuck as to what I can add to what has already been said by the other three participants. They have adequately pointed out the basic needs pertaining to housing within our community of Pictou County, with some reference also to the reality of homelessness. Reference has been made to the broader scope of the problem within Canadian society, and within Nova Scotia. It is an urban problem. It also is a rural problem. We find issues of adequate and affordable housing among the aged, among the young - even teenagers, among the young married couples, among the single, single parent families, and so on. This is a problem that crosses over many other natural divisions of society. This much has been drawn out already in our discussion thus far.

I am one who tends to think of solutions to the crisis in housing, in terms of physical structures. Perhaps this is my weakness: probably there are other creative means of reaching out to people whose basic need is adequate and affordable housing. But given that my perspective is such that I would advocate the development of appropriate housing structures, adequate and sufficient to make a change in the local conditions of housing among the disadvantaged, I would share this concern that has come to my attention. It has been made known to me that a local non-profit corporation can receive funds to help raise and operate a structure for housing purposes. Some of these funds are available in the form of loans from CMHC, which are repayable over the period of some years. I am given to understand that a substantial proportion of the annual budget of CMHC is presently tied up in servicing previous commitments, and thus, that new works that are needed and that are essentially related to community need, may not be able to find financing through the resources of CMHC. In time to come, it may even come to be that no new works will be initiated because of the level of ongoing commitment to projects begun years before. On first look, this appears almost as a hopeless situation. The barrel has a bottom. We can only draw on resources outside our community for so long, or to such a degree - and many of the community needs, even in terms of housing, may be left unmet. Nevertheless there is an encouraging side of this picture, that we, the people of Pictou County, with increased awareness, will find local means of supporting the needs among our own neighbours. The emphasis falls therefore more to the local community - which is where community really is! This is our responsibility, our task, our particular opportunity - to demonstrate the kind of community, the strength and the potential of this community, in which we live.

You know, from what I have heard here tonight, and from what I have learned over the last year and a half of investigating problems of housing and homelessness within Pictou County, I have come to learn that the people we are talking about are not far away - they are all around us; they are close to us. We see them every day. There's the man who stands on a certain corner every morning about such a time, watching the traffic and the people going by. Once in a while we see him. Once in a while we may even wonder why he is there. But mostly he fades into the background for us, with the trees, the autumn grass, and the darkening days of late fall. There are people who find their way to the mall about the time we're tidying up our breakfast dishes: they're looking for a little warmth after the chill of a night without heat. Perhaps we find them if we make our busy way to the mall early enough: but later they will be walking downtown or resting somewhere to keep out of people's way. Some of the people we're thinking about tonight are in the hospital, probably on the second floor. Especially when older, they endure a generally run down condition due to poor housing and poor nutrition, until resulting sickness provides them a bed in the hospital for a couple of weeks. This of course costs society a considerable amount (about $200 per day locally, as much as $400 per day in Halifax), but here we do not identify their problem as one of housing. Yet housing is the basic problem. On our way into or through town, while we're shopping, turning in to get a hamburger, going though our daily routine of tasks and things to do, these people are around us. Women, children, men - not unlike us, except for the basic need of affordable and adequate accomodation.

If we look to the values of the Bible, we are encouraged to see these people as our neighbour, as our family. Our community is a family and these people are members of the family. And our community is made less, our family is weaker, and even our own sense of being "human" is lessened, if we fail to respond to the needs of those who are without adequate housing.

There is a real risk that we may fail to respond to this need. You see, I know that there is a risk we will fail even to recognize the need. Someone was going down the street one day, in an area of a city that is not among the more pleasant areas. Across the street there was a man lying down for rest (it's safer to sleep by day, safer to stay awake during the many hardships and dangers of the night), a man whose basic problem was that he had no home - no home whatever. But the other person could not see him. Not surprising, you may think. But the surprising thing is that even though this man was out in plain view, and even though the man was specifically pointed out to the person by a third person who was travelling with the first, the sleeper could still not be seen. I was the one going down the street. A companion pointed out the other man, and his need. I looked. I saw only a half dozen garbage bags waiting to be collected for disposal. Next to them, only with difficulty I finally perceived the form of the man who had laid down on the ground to rest, an old blackened coat mostly covering his upper body. This brings concern to me, that if I could miss this person, this neighbour, this brother, quite ignorant of his need, even when he was pointed out to me directly, surely I have missed a great many like him. The women and children and men who face days and nights without permanent homes, without heat, without adequate lodging and nutrition, are all around us, and very basically we need the eyes to see them, and then the will to enable our community to address their condition.

A final point: I have also learned that some people will prefer their present situation to the "grand new project" we would build or develop to meet their need. They don't want to be changed. They don't want to be moved out of their familiar surroundings. They have this about them: they have choice, an alternative of rejecting our solutions to their problems. An essential thing will be to involve them from the beginning in any proposed solutions to their condition.

But even if there are difficulties and barriers, financial, social, structural, or even in some sense moral barriers to seeking a solution to problems of housing and homelessness, this is a matter that is basic to the nature of our community. We respond to these people by acting or not acting, by talking about them and by doing no more than talking, by seeking out those with needs and more positively offering something of our own humanity in dialogue with them. We respond. And I hope that in the manner in which we respond, we show that we are human, and that what we have about us is a true and real community. *Thankyou!*

Rev. Brian Weatherdon
Convenor of the Housing Committee
Pictou County Council of Churches

prepared to assist in anyway.

The only expense we incurred was the enclosed bill for the use of the Hall.

We felt our panel discussion on The Homeless successful — altho' there were only about 40 [illegible]. there was an excellent response from the audience & there was a [illegible] discussion - all said they really enjoyed the evening - As included in the write-up, I do hope etc, something comes of the discussion —

Sincerely -

Hazel Fraser

New Glasgow

Local Council of Women.

NEW WESTMINSTER COUNCIL OF WOMEN

President: Mrs. Freda P. Hogg

1109 - 7th Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 2J6

11 January, 1988

Mrs. Rosslyn Tetley
Common Program Coordinator
National Council of Women of Canada
112 Cornwall Ave
Montreal, P.Q.
H3P 1M8

Dear Rosslyn: Re: Your Nov 27, 1987 Letter
Statement of Work

Statement of Work -2.

1. Yes - some of the needs. Particularly young people on the street. Also on the older persons wishing to gain admission to rest homes, or to home care.

2. The City of New Westminster is undergoing a "revitalization". New Westminster was the first capital of British Columbia, and is therefore, a very old town. As the population and businesses moved into the developing surrounding areas, New Westminster's buildings began to deteriorate.

This revitalization includes much new housing. Some, of course, is in the higher income bracket,but there is considerable building of apartments geared to the people on pension income. As our city is becoming, in part, a retirement area, this additional apartment building, in conjunction with the many apartments already established here, makes a good selection of housing in various price ranges.

3. We do not have Local Council members available to conduct an in-depth and accurate investigation on this question. We do have many organizations in town who assist with food banks for the needy, or give cash donations to the needy. This aspect is not "housing", but it does show a caring attitude.

4. We have a very active Seniors' Bureau in town who assist those seniors in need to find a solution to their problems. Also, the British Columbia Human Resources Department provides subsidies for housing rental in various cases.

5. I realize that you require more intensive input from our "Homeless" meetings, than I forwarded in my full report on November 30, 1987. However, my executive or members are not able, or available, to go further into providing answers, so

..... 2

I have done the very best that I could to provide you with the above information.

Reimbursement

In today's mail I received a cheque for $197.04 as requested for reimbursement of "Homeless" meetings expenses.

Thank you very much for such quick action - we will not be submitting any other requests for reimbursement.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Freda P. Hogg

Niagara Falls

Contract re report

In particular note:

2. Statement of Work. Can you answer

1. did the panel discussion focus the public's attention on the needs of the destitute in your area?
Yes in the last 2 months the community is much more aware of problems single mothers, psychiatric and teens!

2. is there a lack of affordable housing in your area?
yes - our vacancy rate is .6% for 1987.

3. do those who live below the poverty line have particular needs in your area? yes - spending 30-70% of income on housing leads to use of the food bank etc.

4. (as in 2. b.) is anyone doing anything about them? who is? what are they doing? 2 groups are now involved in new non profit housing - a coop and Municipal non-profit for seniors are in progress

5. Refer to 2.c. Could you and two or three who attended the meeting get together for a few minutes and answer this one?
more housing choice is needed - we are forming a HOUSING COALITION so all local groups can share ideas and work together.

NCWC would like to qualify for the grant and be in a position to defend its findings. Personpower is short for report writing but I would be most grateful.

....we are sending you our final report to City Council (Jan 1

Please send along a notice of meeting, any coverage in the newspapers, the minutes if the secretary takes them, speakers' c.v.'s, pertinent questions asked, any circulated questionnaire and any resolution or action which followed as a result of interest in the meeting, photos.

....

..we have enclosed the above.....................

Jan 5/88

Margaret Harrington
Local Council of Women
Niagara Falls Ont.

SLYN TETLEY
112 AVENUE CORNWALL
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC
H3P 1M8

TELEPHONE ONLY -
(514) 733-8049 AFTER DEC. 14. please

**COUNCIL OF WOMEN
OF OTTAWA AND AREA**

**LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES
D'OTTAWA ET LA REGION**

BOX 34, STATION B, OTTAWA K1P 6C3

December 31, 1987.

Rosslyn Tetley,
Common Program Coordinator.

Dear Rosslyn:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, which just arrived yesterday. We are sending you receipts for our expenses for the Common Program, and also a report on our program, which I hope will give you the information which you need. I think the report probably provides the answers to your five questions, but perhaps you would like brief answers to the specific questions as well:

1. The program did indeed focus attention on the needs of the destitute in our area, and more specifically the needs of destitute women. We also learned a little about the needs of homeless men, for whom there are more services provided.
2. There is a lack of affordable housing, especially for special needs groups like the psychiatrically disabled.
3. The startling growth of food banks in the area in the last few years indicates that those living below the poverty line do not have enough money to buy adequate supplies of food-- in some cases because they are spending a disproportionate share of their income on housing. In addition the number of homeless, both men and women, has grown, and this presents an especially urgent problem because of the severity of the Ottawa winter.
4. Food and/or overnight shelter is being provided by the Shepherds of Good Hope, the Union Mission, and the Salvation Army for men; in addition several large food banks are being operated by church groups, especially in the west and central part of the city. An emergency shelter and a hostel for women are both being operated by church groups. Regional government is providing small grants this winter to allow men's shelters to stay open during the day, and Women's Place to provide a daytime shelter for women on weekends.
5. See attached report.

These answers are by no means exhaustive, but should give some idea of the situation in Ottawa as far as services for the destitute are concerned.

Sincerely,

Ruth Brown
President

Affilié aux Conseils des Femmes
National et Provincial du Canada

Affiliated with National and Provincial
Councils of Women of Canada

- 1893 -

Regina.

I think the resume of the meeting which follows will answer the other points you raised.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE HOMELESS CORE RITCHIE COMMUNITY CENTRE REGINA 27/10/87

Coordinator	Lowell Monkhouse, Ex. Director, Regina Market Square
Panelists	Donna Caruso, Social Worker, Transtion House (Hostel for Battered Women) Eldon Anderson, Representing Seniors and, in particular, theOld Boys who have been displaced with the demolition of older, downtown hotels. Joanne Crofferd, Director, Rainbow Youth Centre, which helps youth with problems.

absent representation from the psychiatric selfhelp group, By Ourselves, though their specific problems were alluded to in the course of the evening.

After opening remarks re. N.C.W.C. Founding Date, Person's Day and the Common Programme by President Heather Koch, Lowell Monkhouse opened the discussion by posing the following questions:

1. Is there a problem?
2. How do we define this?
3. What can we do?
4. How can we complete this task?

Each panelist then spoke briefly in the order listed above.

Caruso began, appropriately, with a song which she sang acappella, called "I Listened To The Women Tonight". Her main points were:

1. Home should be a safe place-for many women it isn't.
2. Women are often locked out and there are not sufficient shelters for them.

3. The situation has worsened due to government granting cutbacks."
4. Charges are still not being laid for battering despite the ruling of the Attorney General in 1984.
5. There are no child therapists in Transition House which could compound the problem in the future.
6. Decent accommodation is out of range of single mothers- they cannot afford $450-$500 which is the low end of the scale.

Caruso felt one answer were programmes designed to get single women back into the workforce.

Joanne Crofferd from Rainbow Youth Centre works with young people between the ages of 13 -25. She presented the following statistics: 80% of Saskatchewan's population are between 15-24 and of these 22% are looking for work ; they make up 35% of the unemployed. She told us less people were finishing school than starting, that 47% of live births (double the national average) are in this group and that the suicide rate is also twice the national average. She went on to say that traffic accidents are up for this age range and that the average age of the homeless is now younger. She partly blamed this on:

1. Deinstitutionalization (ties in with psychiatric patients)
2. The disappearance of room and board situations and rooming houses

She noted social assistance for the young is dependant on them going to school. She also noted the cutting of 2 aid packages by the government. She felt there were not enough foster situations or adequate short term shelters. Among the needs she stressed were; support services to the home environment, transportation to school and for job search.

Eldon Anderson spoke briefly re. the linkage between the Saskatchewan and Canada Assistance Plans but dwelt mainly on the problem of the Old Boys- who now include some women- in Regina. They number some 300 persons and are socially detached. The Salvation Army,with provincial government assistance, is building a hostel which will accommodate some of them but there is concern that it is not what they are looking for. There is a Downtown Housing Crisis Foundation now in existence.

Lowell Monkhouse then took the chair. He pointed out the necessity of groups like ours to be advocates, lobbyists and to keep the public and government informed, and suggested the following steps:

1. We should brief the government on poverty with the focus on housing-- by government he meant provincial, municipal and the school boards. He felt media enlistment to be important.
2. We should each support one another in our efforts.
3. We should talk face to face with government on poverty and involve them. Too many people do not believe that conditions are as bad as they are.
4. We should involve ourselves in a specific project.

The meeting then adjourned.

****

The meeting had excellent press coverage and reporter LuAnn LaSalle of the Leader Post interviewed President Heather and the panelists. (see press clipping) As a result, Council was contacted by the Welfare Rights Centre and a meeting arranged between the President, Warren Engles and President Havi Echenburg of the National AntiPoverty League of Canada. This was largely a PR meeting as Council does not join other groups. Our President was also approached by the senior's New Horizon Group who offered to help with a project if we could elect 8-10 seniors to the relevant committee. This has yet to be followed up. After discussion with the sub executive it was decided that Council would adopt the Rainbow Youth Centre as a special project and the General Meeting of January 1988 will be held in their premises with Joanne Crofferd as our speaker.

ST. CATHARINES

R.R.1
Ridgeville, Ont.
LOS 1MO
December 2, 1987

Dear Rosslyn,

Thankyou for your letter of Nov. 6. I will answer the questions in the order you have numbered them.

1. The panel pointed out that in a study by the Social Planning and Research Council of St. Catharines and Thorold called "The Hidden Problem", it was discovered that the two main groups in need of housing in our area were women,and young people aged 16 to 18. Many people on low incomes cannot afford rental costs,and zoning bylaws prevent a lot of convert-to-rent places being provided which these people could afford. Many people live in substandard housing.

2. Yes, there is a lack of affordable housing in our area. The vacancy rate for rental housing in our city is 0.5% and most rental housing is priced beyond the reach of most households. 90% of low income households, single parents and the physically impaired spend over ¼ of their income on housing. As of October there were 281 families waiting for rent-geared-to-income housing in government run apartment buildings or townhouses.

3. Those living below the poverty line, even if they get a subsidy for housing, cannot afford to pay out the first and last month's rent when they move into an apartment. There is no housing for homeless teens in our area. Those living below the poverty line who have housing are usually living in substandard housing which is poor for their health(eg. inadequate heating, insects and rodents infesting the rooms.

4. Women's Place is providing temporary housing for abused women for up to six weeks. The Y.W.C.A. provides second stage housing for up to one year. Several volunteer groups in the city have pooled their resources to build a second stage housing project called the Bethlehem Project. There are three housing co-ops in the city. The Social Planning and Research Council has documented the housing need in "The Hidden Problem". They have also stimulated public awareness of the problem by holding seminars. They have provided a housing registry at the library and they are working toward a housing advocacy centre. SPARC has also produced a booklet of the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

5. SUMMARY

Milica Kovacevich, executive director of the Social Planning and Research Council moderated the panel which also consisted of Gillian Dooley, executive director of Women's Place and Mary Phillips, executive director of the Y.W.C.A. Women's Residence. Milica began the discussion with an overview of homelessness in Canada. She said that 100,000 people are homeless at some time during the year in Canada. The reasons for homelessness include 1) lack of housing, 2) unemployment and poverty 3) deinstitutionalization and 4) domestic violence and abuse. Homelessness has been defined by the United Nations in two ways. First it means those who literally have ho roof over their heads and secondly it is the "relative homeless". That could mean that the shelter does not protect them from the elements, it is insecure or unsafe, it is far from jobs, education and health care, and it costs too much. In our area the people who are in the most need of housing are women,and young people aged 16 to 18. However, the Social Planning and Research Council get calls every day from other groups in need of housing including two parent families, single parents, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Gillian Dooley outlined the need being filled by Women's Place in providing crisis housing for abused women and their children. The average length of stay is about a month, and besides providing shelter, they provide counselling on life skills and job hunting. When the women leave the shelter they have trouble finding accommodation because people don't want to rent to single mothers with children, people on welfare or people from Women's Place. These women cannot afford to pay the first and last month's rent required by most landlords.

Mary Phillips of the Y.W.C.A. Women's Residence informed us that it is second stage housing and women can stay up to one year. The Y.W.C.A. also provides counselling on life skills. There are 35 women on the waiting list to get into the residence. The main problem of these women is similar to Women's Place when seeking housing on limited funds (eg. first and last month's rent)

The meeting was then opened to the floor for discussion. One women said that she was being evicted from her apartment because the landlord was making renovations to the building under a government program. In order to return to her apartment when the repairs are done, she will have to pay an extra $150/month rent, but they cannot afford to pay it. Milica said that she would look into the case. This woman's family in the past was evicted from an apartment because they couldn't afford the rent and herself and husband and two daughters lived in a car for a while. They next lived in a basement apartment with inadequate heat and had three sick daughters . They are on a list for Ontario housing now but there are 95 people ahead of them.

Another woman said that the main reason for the persistance of homelessness was the lack of political will to do anything about it. Local zoning bylaws should be changed to permit seniors with large homes to rent parts of them out. It was also pointed out that the zoning in most areas does not allow a homeowner to add a rental unit to their home. A Brock University student pointed out that lack of decent housing increases psychiatric problems which in turn costs the taxpayers money. Besides needing government help they would benefit from self-help groups and co-operative housing. Since she lives in one, she was able to point out the benefits of co-op housing such as self-help and sharing skills and responsibilities.

Other suggestions to ease the housing problem were to ask churches to let people know about housing alternatives. The reverse mortgage scheme which is used in Sweden was explained.

Milica closed the program by pointing out that there is no one answer to solving the housing problem in St. Catharines; there are a whole lot of different answers to increasing rental housing stock in the city such as home sharing and changes to zoning bylaws.

I hope that this information is adequate for your report.

Sincerely,

Mary Potter

President, St. Catharines
Local Council of Women

1988 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions which will be discussed at the 1988 Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada iN London, Ontario, from May 13th to 18th, will be discussed and voted upon by the MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN on Wednesday, March 16th, 1988. Full texts of the resolutions and background material will be available for participants at the February 17th meeting. Only the resolved clauses appear below. NOTE: To save space, in some cases the repeating phrase "Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada" has been omitted.

#1: HOUSING: A NATIONAL EMERGENCY - St. Catherines LCW/NCWC Housing Convenor
1. To declare a "National State of Emergency" as it relates to housing those most in need;
2. To initiate a ten year plan of action to provide adequate, affordable housing through existing and new inovative programmes;
3. To make a major financial commitment to facilitate these programmes, with funds being channelled mainly through non-profit and co-operative housing programmes with
    a) an increase in the share of co-operative unite;
    b) an increase in the percentage of rent geared to income (RGI) units for co-ops to allow for up to 50%;
    c) a change in criteria for non-profit housing programmes to allow singles (over 16) to be eligible for RGI units, and special needs persons and singles to be part of the mainstream programmes.
4. To work closely with the Provincial Governments to ascertain that all Canadians have equal access to such programmes and that no Province cut back on what is determined to be a necessary programme.

#2: AGAINST TAXING OF FOOD OR OTHER BASIC CONSUMER GOODS - NCWC Legislation/Income Tax Reform Convenor
1) To exempt food from any sales tax system;
2) To extend, where possible, the food exemption to cover non food gracery items such as toilet paper, detergents, lysol, etc.
3) To develop some basic price levels for items of children's clothing so that items sold below such prices could be tax exempt.

#3 PROTECTION OF SOCIETY FROM DANGEROUS PERSONS - NCWC Human Rights Convenor

Swift Current Council of Women

SWIFT CURRENT, SASK.

112 - 9th Ave. N.E.,
Swift Current, Sask.
January 18, 1988

Ms. Rosslyn Tetley,
Co-ordinator, Common Programme,
112 Cornwall Ave.,
Montreal, Quebec
H3P 1M8.

Dear Ms. Tetley:

Sorry to be so long in answering your letter of November 26/87. It seemed when I received it we were into the Christmas rush and also we were preparing to travel to Nova Scotia to spend the holiday with our oldest daughter and her family. Thank goodness the Air Canada strike was settled and we were able to go and just returned last week. So, if my comments are too late for your report, please disregard this letter.

As I stated in my previous letter, we really had no expenses for our meeting on "Homelessness in our Home Town". The hall was donated by the Anglican Church, the panel members made no charge and there was no cost for publicity. Other than the two items from the local "Sun" paper which I have already sent you, the only other publicity we had were pre-notices of our meeting, which appeared in both our local papers in the Community Happenings column which I'm afraid I did not keep. There was no charge for these as well.

In answer to the questions - 2) Statement of Work:

1. did the panel discussion focus the public's attention on the needs of the destitute in your area?
   Yes. Both in the areas of run down apartment buildings where people live because of low rents and also the need for a Transition House for battered women and children.

2. is there a lack of affordable housing in your area?
   Yes, in the area of low cost housing.

3. do those who live below the poverty line have particular needs in your area?
   Yes. Suitable housing for seniors and those on social assistance.

4. is anyone doing anything about them? who is? what are they doing?
   Yes. We have a Swift Current Housing Authority who deal with such areas - mainly though with subsidized housing for senior citizens and physically handicapped - some with low income families as well. They press the provincial government for special housing projects, when needed.

Follow up Action:

Our Council did write a letter to our Mayor re: the condition of city apartment blocks. A copy of this letter and his reply are enclosed. At our January Council of Women meeting held just last week we had Ruth Fiala, City Alderman, as our guest and this matter was brought up again. It was suggested to her that City Council look into a "Maintenance and Occupancy Bylaw" similar to one recently enacted by Regina City Council, which allows the city to monitor the condition of local housing.

Also, our Council of Women have had representation on the committee looking into obtaining funding for a Transition House for battered women and children for the South West area of Saskatchewan. This request will be going into the Provincial Government by the end of this month.

Hoping this information will be helpful to you. Again my apologies for being so late.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Findlay

Mary E. Findlay,
President.

[illegible]

Founded in 1893

Toronto and Area Council of Women

IN AFFILIATION WITH

Provincial, National, International

Councils of Women

As The United Nations has declared 1987 the Year of the Homeless and National Council has asked us to address it locally, I report my findings on two centres who are trying to deal with this problem.

The Council Fire Drop-in Centre, 411 Parliament Street, Toronto, Ontario, is non-profit and not related to any organization and its objective is to reach street people without homes. Their target people are mainly native Indians who through no fault of their own have lost awareness of their heritage, culture, spirituality and identity. Mrs. Millie Redman is the director of this centre.

A room in Toronto today, is $75.00 to $100.00 per week and because of this people sleep in doorways, over grates and in hidden corners as they cannot afford such prices. These people are encouraged to come to the Drop-in centre for coffee and doughnuts, lunches and a hot dinner is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dinners are specifically useful for native people to learn what they are and who they are by meeting up with members of other tribes and reserves from across Canada and make them realize that they can get other support and become aware of their identity and they too can support one another.

The one thing in common is that Council Fire tries to make 411 Parliament Street a haven away from home and within these walls the native people get to know that help is within for it is a well known fact that many doors have been closed to them and it is their Centre, which is supported by Church groups, government grants and other sources, which make it possible for a native to reach out to help their own to find themselves and to become aware of who they are.

In the last ten years it is apparent that native people help each other. To help and support each other is specifically what native people want to do. There are 30,000 native Indians in Toronto. The support of organizations is appreciated and needed.

Camp Fire is embarking on a new project which is a single apartment dwelling with about 20 units where street people will find direction to get employment to continue on in education, to reach fully their potential, to support themselves and become better citizens.

The Centre helps sole support mothers and families and some of the elderly in the district. They receive an enormous amount of phone calls. There are two councillors - one for males and one for women and families.

Council Fire has a good staff who try to act as family for the natives. The native people like to know that they have a centre with a family atmosphere they can relate to and can come to Camp Fire at any time.

...2

I headed to All Saints' Anglican Church, Dundas and Sherbourne Sts., and met Dan Robillard, Assistant to the minister. He administers programs for the Church. I saw an apartment building which is nearly completed on the church premises. There are 61 bachelor apartments for men and some women. Rent is geared to income--welfare, pensions and some are subsidized. There is no age barrier. All the apartments are assigned and it is expected to be finished for occupancy by the end of November.

I feel the Council Fire Drop-in Centre and the Open Door Drop-in Centre at All Saints' Anglican Church are doing a great job under trying circumstances and to me appeared to be lamps in the darkness of this horrendous problem of the homeless.

Victoria Council of Women
Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Mollie Beddington 727-0954
PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lillian Money 642-5379
Recording SECRETARY

5574 Medberry Close,
Sooke, V.I., B.C.
VOS 1NO
December 18, 1987.

Rosslyn Tetley, Co-Ordinator,
1987 Common Programme Project,
National Council of Women,
112 Cornwall,
Montreal, Canada H3P 1M8

Dear Rosslyn:

In reply to your questionnaire dated November 6, the following are answers given at our executive meeting on Tuesday December 1: -

1. Did the panel discussion focus the public's attention on the needs of the destitute in your area? Answer: Yes.
2. Is there a lack of affordable housing in your area? Answer: Yes.
3. Do those who live below the poverty line have particular needs in your area? Answer: Yes. Because of high rents they have to receive help from food banks to eat.

4 & 5. Is anyone doing anything about them? Who is? What are they doing?
Answers: see enclosed statements from our President Mollie Beddington and Treasurer Pearl Coleman.

Kindly accept my apologies for the delay in getting this off to you, but I was waiting for the enclosed statements.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Sincerely,

Lillian Money.
Recording Secretary.

Encs.

P.S.: Another disturbing aspect revealed at our special program is the fact people are being released from mental institutions without the promised accommodation and back-up or support services they require.

Vancouver

HOMELESSNESS - FINAL REPORT

COMMITTEE:	**Joan Bower**	**926-2319**
	Pat Raaflaub	**266-2221**
	Ruth Wyne	**261-0072**
	Joy Scudamore	**263-6169**
	Jane Hymel	**925-2373 (typing and photocopying)**

Homelessness is more than a shelter problem. It is life in disarray.

The United Nations, in designating 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, chose a broad definition of homelessness which includes two groups of people.

1. street people and victims of disaster who have no homes at all (absolute homelessness), and;
2. people whose homes do not meet the United Nations' basic standards (relative homelessness).

To meet the United Nations' basic standards, a dwelling must:

1. provide adequate protection from the elements;
2. provide access to safe water and sanitation;
3. provide for secure tenure and personal safety;
4. lie within easy reach of employment, education and health care; and
5. not cost more than people can really afford.

Although not officially acknowledged, the Canadian Shelter system has four tiers:

1. people in private sector permanent housing;
2. in government-subsidized housing, where tenure is conditional;
3. in temporary and emergency shelters; and
4. "on the streets".

The data does not tell the number of people staying in hostels, hotels, temporary and emergency shelters and on the streets.

CONTACTS RE: HOUSING

Long Time Housing - 828 W. 8th Street, Vancouver, B.C.
Telephone: (604) 873-0234

- Director of Continuing Care - Mr. Michael Sarochan
  Mrs. Parsons spoke to her re: Senior Housing.

All income levels - low cost programs in place - high incomes adequate - middle income people are caught in the middle. Not enough facilities for them. Parkwood Manor, Coquitlam - middle income.

- Greater Vancouver Regional District - Sandra Morris, Hospital Planner.

Their booklet was bought to me by her, for our perusal (her mandate is Health Care for the elderly).

- Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia
  106 - 2182 W. 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
  Telephone: (604) 736-8118
- Director, Mr. Michael Claque

Joan Le Clair - mature, middle aged and homeless women. She is doing research at S.P.A.R.C. this year for her Ph.D.

- Central City Mision Rehabilitation Center
  233 Abbott Street, Vancouver, B.C.
  Telephone: (604) 681-8111
  Director, Mr. Alec Reiben

A non-profit society that receives grants from Provincial Government (which pays operating costs). Two programs includes 120 beds for long-term care (could be for life) and 20 beds for mostly those in the alcohol recovery program. There are 11 nurses on staff and a doctor visits twice a week. They also run a third program which sends two nurses each day to the older downtown hotels, etc., to look after 30 additional patients. User fee but if unable to pay, Human Resources, Department of Vertern's Affairs, etc. (pensions).

Staff of 70, nurses, security, cooks, cleaners, office, etc. and medical.

Built in 1910, very outdated and in need of major repairs and renovations, (e.g., hHeating needs to be re-done, no ventilation in building and electrical system needs to be completely re-done and everything else.) Question - whether to raze building and rebuild, or ?.

CENTRAL CITY MISSION VISIT - NOVEMBER 30, 1987

Our Secretary, Joy Scudamore, and I visited Central City Mission on November 30th, 1987.

The Director, Mr. Alec Reiben showed us the facility. The annual operation costs run between $2,000,000 - $3,000,000. The Provincial Government is supposed to fund 55% of this but there is always a shortfall, and Central City Mission had to raise an additional $287,000 this year in order to meet their running expenses.

The building was renovated 10 years ago but is now badly in need of major repairs, renovations, and more space. The alternative being to raze the building and re-building. To renovate would cost about $4,000,000 and to re-build would cost about $7,000,000. The building is comprised of six floors, plus basement.

The main floor has been renovated and consists of administration offices, foyer and a large recreation room for meetings, entertainment, etc. It is attractive with many plants, etc.

There is one small elevator for the entire building. It is very slow and is often held up for long periods by incoming supplies, etc. Food and supplies are brought into the building, taken to the basement, then up to the 6th floor to the dining room. Many of the patients and guests have to walk up five or six floors to the dining room, as Joy and I did.

The third floor has a cozy new recreation room, with library, television, comfortable chairs, pictures, etc. The pipes have been covered. In the rest of the building, the pipes are exposed. There is no ventilation.

Mr. Alec Reiben has my phone number and address and will notify us as soon as their board has made its decision as to whether to renovate or re-build. Our secretary explained to him the way in which the Vancouver Council operates, and we reiterated our willingness to help in any way which would be acceptable to Council.

CONTACTS

- **Simon Fraser University**
  Telephone: (604) 291-3555
  Dr. Gloria Gutman, Director of Gerontology

She says 62% of Seniors are in their own homes and wish to stay there. Help offered (e.g., homemakers, sharing homes, etc.). They have published books on the subject and are sending me brochures on the books re: Senior Housing.

- **Elders Network**
  Telephone: (604) 733-4169
  Mr. Kent Lyon

They matched people for seniors who wish to share their homes. Mostly people in their 40's and 50's are matched with older people to share homes.

- **Social Planning for Vancouver**
  Telephone: (604) 873-7487
  Mr. Max Beck, Director.

- **"Housing for the Homeless"**
  East Annex, 3rd floor, City Hall (next door Yukon Street)
  Mr. John Jessup, Director

An interview was held with Mr. Jessup on October 19th, 1987.

He feels there is a shortage of housing for battered women and for single mothers with children. (That we should concentrate on this).

- **Downtown Eastside Women's Centre** (funding name)
  is now the Mavis McMullen Housing Society
  400 block East Cordova

It is low income housing for women (i.e., single, sharing, or single parent with children). Funded 2/3 by the Federal Government. Province shares 1/3 of the cost and administrates. 34 suites - 1, 2 and 3 self contained dwellings. Renters pay 30% of income for rent. Some are working poor - some on welfare. Openheimer Park is opposite (playground). The facility is new - best. It is independent living.

The City of Vancouver has $30 million in property, which it leases back to non-profit or co-operatives for 60 years.

- The Franklin Street Women's Residence
  (Commercial and Franklin Streets)
  Was built in 1920. It has been renovated and the same criteria applies. Federal Government gives 25% funding. Indedendent living.

City has 276 projects (with affordable units) 16,271 units, including rooming houses and old hotels. 1/3 are seniors.

These are targeted projects (i.e., older men or women).

Integrated Housing Projects - single with children and families, etc. (try for a balance).

The best of these is:

- Four Sisters Housing Co-op
  Alexander and Powell (153 units). Very modern and nice.

Mr. Jessup offered to set up a panel of key people for one of our meetings. Re: C.M.H.C., non-profit, B.C.H.M.C. (Provincial) and Social Planning for Vancouver (he was unable to do this).

1987 - The International Year of Shelter and the Homeless - An Investment in People.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Arthur Fallick - The International, 20,000 - 40,000 Canadians homeless - aspect and specific programs in Canada.

- April English - Women's situation in Vancouver.

- Sandy Cook - District Manager Outreach Program for Social Services and Housing Ministry.

The Vancouver scene for youth - he says that right now there are between 400 - 500 street kids.

- Outreach Program (various churches)
  Y.M.C.A. - Y.W.C.A

April English - She is the project co-ordinator of Affordable Housing and a founding member of "Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society". Its mandate is to promote the improvement of the quality of the lives of single mothers and children. She is one of three partners in Third Stop Development. She works with Family Services of Greater Vancouver, North Shore and Richmond and the Y.W.C.A. She established the Support Program for Battered Women and women's programs in general. "Alma Blackwell's" - Non-profit housing rental society - is built around children - No more that 30% of gross income (this does not include daycare).

She says the policies and programs of all three levels of government need to be adjusted.

- Joan Le Clair - S.P.A.R.C.
  U.B.C. Social work - graduate student.

Is doing research re: single women 45 - 65 who are homeless. "The silent homeless".

- St. James Anglican Church visit (January 12, 1988)
  Father Gardiner

Father Gardiner mentioned many facilities by name in the downtown east side area. Among these are:

- East Endees - for women in crisis. Sheltered workshop - Indian women.

- Powell Place - for women in crisis - 14 beds. There are also apartments upstairs for women to be re-established (after crisis)
  Mrs. Maureen Long runs this home
  Telephone: (604) 684-2521

- Home Help Office
  332 Powell Street

- The Lookout - integrated. Started a few years ago by a group of young Canadians.

- Bird House - integrated.

- Victory Hotel - has been converted. Run by Mrs. Mae Gutteridge. To house mentally disturbed people.

- Cooper House - houses 75 men and women. Supposed to be intermediate care but now 1/4 of them are long-term care. There are not enough facilities for long-term care.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

- **Downtown Eastside Women's Center**
  217 Main Street (between Cordova and Powell Streets)
  Telephone: (604) 681-8480
  Coordinators: Pam Cooley, Lori Gabrielson

Provincial Government gives them $26,000 per year which pays the rent and one salary. Their budget is $50,000 per year. They have to raise the difference. They see 50-60 women a day. They are badly in need of an emergency shelter, where no strings are attached. They would like help from all interested organizations. They say there is no way of counting women aged 45-65 without an emergency shelter. These women are the "Hidden Homeless". Jean Le Clair - Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. She is doing research there this year on "Mature Women and Homelessness" (see attached).

- **The Salvation Army**
  Captain Christine MacMillan, Executive Director
  Interviewed January 11, 1988

- **The Crosswalk**
  Street and drop-in centre for men and women.
  45 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C.
  Telephone: (604) 669-4349

- **Kate Booth House**
  A Crisis Center for battered women and children.
  P.O. Box 35361, Vancouver, B.C.

- **The Homestead**
  Women with addictions.
  1106 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
  Telephone: (604) 732-6325

Captain MacMillan is an experienced social worker and was informative and helpful. The Homestead is an old house, having 11 beds. Priorities are addictions, but they also help those with no accommodation. They keep patients for one to two weeks, and help them to relocate following treatment.

The new Homestead is under construction at 7250 Oak Street (at 57th Avenue). Their land is shared by the Salvation Army Maywood Home for Single Mothers. The residency will increase from 11 to 31 beds and its auxillary facilities will permit 60 persons in total, on a daily basis.

The Crosswalk was established in 1978 as a satelite of the Homestead in response to the growing number of needy women in the downtown east side of Vancouver. It is funded completely by the Salvation Army. It remains open from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. for those needing help. As well as being a drop-in center, people in crisis are cared for and later taken to an appropriate place.

The mentally disturbed are difficult to place. Crosswalk staff may accompany such a person to Social Services, or be an advocate for such person thereby gaining his trust.

Kate Booth House is for battered women and children. It is a confidentially located shelter for abused women and children. The shelter's services are offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for victims of domestic violence. 12 bed capacity. It provides a safe, home-like atmosphere for up to one month. All information re: location and residents is strictly confidential. Funded by the Provincial Government. Salvation Army administers and adds funds for running expenses.

- Harbour Lights (January 13, 1988)
  119 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C.
  Director, Captain John Moore
  Assistant Director, Captain Graham

Our secretary, Joy Scudamore, and I were taken on a tour of the building. Captain Moore told us that their program, which is mainly addiction recovery, comprises 24 beds in the Detox facility, and 84 beds in the recovery area. Residents can stay in the recovery area as long as needed or required.

As well, there is the James McCready Residence, comprising 44 self-contained suites. These consist of bachelor, and one bedroom suites and is subsidized housing.

Patients in this facility are largely self-referred or sent by the Welfare office.

The building is new and very well appointed with numerous recreation rooms, study rooms, library, etc. As well, there is a large chapel seating 250 persons. People on the street attend chapel and then are taken to the dining room for a hot meal. They serve 600 meals each day, no charge.

We were told that Pender Street Detox Center is being privatized and that one of the bids is by the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army is the 8th largest employer in Canada.

The average age of the Detox patient is now 38 years.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETING - OCTOBER 5, 1987

Speaker: Mr. Robert White, St. James Social Services

On a national level, Mr. White says Canada - on a scale of one to ten - ranks ninth. The homeless in Canada is much less than in the United States. Canada gives more per capita than does the United States.

Toronto has the highest percentage of homeless of any Canadian city. Winnipeg is also very high. Vancouver has a low rate in comparison. There are 35 agencies in the downtown area that deal with homelessness.

On a typical night in November (1986), there were 63 "absolutely" homeless in Vancouver. Of these, 41 were sleeping on the streets, 12 would not say where, four were with friends, one slept under the viaduct, one slept in a park.

The reasons for the homelessness:

- Alcoholism
- Drug abuse
- Mentally disturbed (major reason)
- No job - no money

Since the closing of various mental health facilities, the housing for mentally ill people has become acute. Many are being assimilated among the general population. Most of the agences have opened offices with housing.

- Cooper Place
  Keeps people for long-term care.

- St. Michael's Care Facility
  Burnaby
  Keeps people for long-term care.

VANCOUVER COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETING - NOVEMBER 2, 1987

Meeting Held at: Salvation Army's "Dunsmuir House"

This is an old hotel for men which has been taken over by the Salvation Army to house itinerant men, both on a short-term and long-term basis. As well, there are 160 rooms that are rented by the week or by the month. The dormitory consists of 30 beds. Many of these people are sent by Welfare. The charge is according to the means (pension, etc).

Major Sharpe spoke on the work done there, then conducted us on a tour through the premises.

We were served a delicious turkey dinner.

Men and women (public) are allowed into this main floor dining room and served meals, at a low charge.

Joan Le Clair, a U.B.C. Graduate Social Student, who is working this year with S.P.A.R.C., gave a short talk on the work she is doing re: mature women and "Homelessness". She is researching women aged 45-65.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN MEETING - FEBRUARY 1, 1988

Speaker: Marjorie White

Mrs. White spoke mainly of Indian women. She also spoke of Indian youth, and men just out of prison trying to adjust. She heads a three-way pre-employment program. Training:

1. Indian women
2. Indian youth
3. Indian men coming out of prison

She spoke of the disadvantages of the residential schools, which were the only schools open to Indian youth until the 1950's. The students remained in school for ten months of the year, and away from family and friends, thereby sustaining a loss of culture and parental skills. She says many of the older Native women are still lacking in parental skills. They were not allowed to speak their own language, and consequently many lost the ability to speak it. These girls and the boys (in their school) did not learn social amenities or social behaviour, thus were at a loss in the everyday world when they entered it.

Banning of the "Potlatch" by the government caused a void in their culture as they were not able to learn the old traditions and ways.

The Indian people do not like to be categorized (i.e., status and non-status Indians). If they are non-status Indians, they are ineligible for aid re: education, housing, etc. (living off reserve). In 1985, the Indian Act was changed thus allowing a women who had married a non-Indian man to retain her status. This applied to their children but not to their grandchildred.

The Indian Act needs to be amended.

CONCLUSIONS

Low-cost subsidized housing is needed for:

1. Single parents with children

2. Battered women

3. Young single women and young men

4. Women aged 45-65 who are single
   These are "concealed" homeless in many cases (i.e., jobless, widowed and too young for O.A.S. and ineligible for C.P.P.).

5. University students. Single rooms fairly close to the university and cooking arrangements allowed. Also, more university endowment lands are needed for student housing, many of whom have families.

6. Indian Women and Indian Youth. If they live off the reserve, they are ineligible for aid re: education and housing.

There are more targeted housing and care programs for men than women.

Integrated subsidized projects are needed (i.e., those with a good mix of low-income people).

Nov. 1987

HOMELESSNESS AND WOMEN

-preliminary contacts made regarding single, mature (ages 45 - 65 approx.) women and homelessness.

-DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE 681-8480
-very enthuastic abour having research done, they think there is a real need for more services for women and for some policy changes to prevent homelessness.
-They are interested in setting up an emergency women's shelter/hostel -- need research to prove the need. They want to put together an Emerg. shelter (no strings attached) $26,000 per yr. - Budget $50,000 -

-SINGLE MOTHER'S HOUSING NETWORK 278-8033
-They work with single mothers and arrange house sharing. Their client group is growing, presently they cover the entire Lower Mainland to Langley.
-They do get calls from single, mature women but their focus is on single parents.

-WOMEN IN FOCUS 872-2250
-a media resource center for women
-They have a video tape which can be previewed at their studio with one week's notice. Title: "Shopping Bag Ladies" interviews with homeless women in New York. 1979, 45 minutes long, $2.00 an hour to preview, $55.00 to rent.

-B.C. PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (PRIG) 291-8104
-They have just printed a new "Women's Resource Guide" -- can be ordered for $2.50.

-ENTRE NOUS FEMMES 254-8104
-They are a co-operative group which develops housing mainly for single parent mothers.
-Some of their housing includes single, mature women.
-Would be very helpful in providing information re: housing development (especially with a co-operative focus).
-contacts: April English or Leslie (?)

-CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 228-5254
-contact: Arthur Fallick
-Arthur is doing his PhD. work on Homelessness -- he has a great deal of knowledge and material on the issue.

-Y.W.C.A. 683-2531
-The Y has a Task Force on Housing
-They are interested in research and perhaps in the near future in setting up a meeting or conference around action planning for dealing with homelessness and women.

-MATURE WOMEN' NETWORK 681-3986
-have a large membership of mature women, many of whom are facing difficulties in terms of housing, income etc.

-WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE 685-3934
-They run workshops for women around the issues of job search, resume writing etc. They admitted they probably don't work with homeless women as their workshops cost approx. $40 each -- a bit much for women on low income.

-WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE 734-0485
-They do research and provide assistance for women doing research on a variety of women's issues.
-They have not done any work on homelessness.

.....2

Nov. 1987

HOMELESSNESS AND WOMEN cont'd p.2

Other Possible Contacts:

-B.C. Housing Management Corporation

-B.C. Homesharers

-Transition Houses

-Y.W.C.A. Toronto: recently had a conference on Shelter for Women
 -write to them for materials and information

-THESIS from the School of Community and Urban Planning, U.B.C.

1) NIELSEN	1985	on microfilm in the Main library U.B.C.
2) Angell	1982	on microfilm " " "

both of these are on women and housing?homelessness in Vancouver
both a must to read

-Joan LeClair at the U.B.C. School of Social Work, Graduate program
 -Joan is doing research this year on single, mature women and homelessness
--can be reached at Social Planning & Research Council of B.C. 736-8118 Mondays and Tuesdays Home 738-9247

LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF WINNIPEG

COMMON PROGRAM 1987

THE HOMELESS IN YOUR HOMETOWN REPORT

STATEMENT OF WORK

1. The panel members discussed the needs of persons homeless for a variety of reasons:
    - -men and women with chemical dependencies needing shelter/residential treatment centres.
    - -persons in post-treatment programs requiring half-way houses and assistance finding permanent shelter
    - -persons homeless due to eviction,release from prison or hospital,fire victims,and transients require emergency housing.
    - -the chronically homeless or those unhousable usually because of behaviour problems needing a residential program to deal with the whole person
    - -children needing a temporary safe haven other than that offered by custody

2.The facilities described by the panel members are short of funds and are often operated beyond capacity. Where the facility offers treatment as well as shelter there are waiting lists. Many agencies refer clients to the programs.

Housing for the working poor or welfare families was described as "inhospitable, bearable only for sleeping and eating".

The YWCA and YMCA are reorganizing as part of inner city development. Closure of residences has resulted in a sudden loss of 300 single occupancy rooms. Many of these displaced persons required a semi-supervised residence.

3.The problems encountered by the homeless persons described in #1 are almost always combined with poverty. Sometimes a person's addiction takes priority over housing spending.

Welfare housing allowances do not meet costs, resulting in persons renting by the week and seeking shelter for the last week of the month. When children are involved, this frequent moving disrupts schooling.

4 In terms of the panel presentation, services offered are described in answers to #1 and #5.

Recommendations indicate what is required in Winnipeg as described by these four persons.

5.SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:

PANEL MEMBERS:

JOHN RODGERS: Executive Director of Main Street Project

2 locations: 75 Martha (detoxification centre:42% of clients have no fixed address) and 105 Galt (26 bed coed hostel)

50 employees and student placement for training in social work, psychiatric nursing programs

services: crisis intervention, emergency referral service,street patrols, day treatmant program, case managemant and assessment, and short term residential accomodation for the difficult to house.

CAPTAIN DONNA EYRE: Administrator of Baldwin House

A 42 bed facility in west end of core-area offering shelter,clothing, child-care,meals, counselling to women and children who are homeless.

JANET PAGE: Resource Person at Augustine United Church

Augustine United Church is known as the 'Village Church'. It is in a densely populated area adjacent to the downtown business district. It is a ministry of hospitality to area residents including counselling, advocacy, crisis intervention and referral agency for housing needs.

SISTER LESLIE SACOUMAN: Executive Co-director of Rossbrook House

Rossbrook House is a temporary shelter for children needing a safe place when their homes in the neighbourhood are in crisis;often late at night on a weekend. It is also an educational,recreational centre staffed by young people who grew up in the area and know the conditions the children face.

*HANDOUTS AVAILABLE AT DOOR:

(1) list of speakers on housing programs
(2)resource list of emergency housing in Winnipeg
(3)Baldwin House brochure

FOLLOWUP WITH FEDERATE GROUPS:

The proceedings were taped and transcribed. Copies of these are available to federates for meetings and discussions.

* attached

Manitoba Housing's new speakers program offers groups the opportunity to learn more about housing programs available to them.

Speakers are available to address schools, church groups, service clubs and community organizations on the following topics.

Cooperative HomeStart
- Assists with the development of multiple-unit cooperative housing.

Home Renovation Programs
- Includes a variety of programs designed to assist homeowners with home renovations.

Shelter Allowances
- Provides direct monthly assistance to eligible low income family and elderly renters.

Private Non-Profit Housing
- Assists non-profit corporations with the development of subsidized housing.

Landlord and Tenant Affairs
- Provides information to landlords and tenants.
- Arbitrates landlord-tenant disputes.
- Regulates the amount of rent increases throughout Manitoba.

Special Needs Housing
- Assists with the establishment of housing for people with physical, social mental, or emotional problems.

Programs for the Elderly
- Includes shelter allowances, school tax assistance and residences.

Infill Housing
- Moderately priced homes are built in Winnipeg's core area and sold to the general public.

Urban Native
- Assists native groups in developing non-profit housing in urban centres.

If you would like to arrange for a speaker or require further information on the Manitoba Housing Speakers Program,
please contact Anita Tiessen,Communications Officer at 945-1353 or 945-4993

RESOURCE LIST

1987 INTERENATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS
HOMELESSNESS IS THOUGHT TO HAVE FOUR DIRECT CAUSES: UNEMPLOYMENT,INADEQUATE SOCIAL BENEFITS,DISPLACEMENT,AND DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION.

EMERGENCY HOUSING

SALVATION ARMY: Baldwin House; Temporary housing for Abused, Deserted, & Homeless Women.
783-7129 ; 860 Preston Ave.

FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE: for Drop-in Children.
943-2129 ; 324 Logan Ave.

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY: (Mother Theresa House), Temporary shelter for Homeless Women.
582-2773 ; 167 Aikens St.

OSBORNE HOUSE : for Abused Women.
775-8197

PREGNANCY DISTRESS SERVICE: Temporary Pregnancy Shelter.
775-2877 ; 571 Furby St.
775-2854 ; Office

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT. (City Welfare).
775-8311 ; 705 Broadway Ave.

SOCIAL ALLOWANCES : (Provincial) Longer Term.
945-2177 ; 164 Isabel St.
775-6959 ; Emergency; (Evenings)

MAIN STREET PROJECT : 24 Hour Crisis Intervention. Emergency Referral and Shelter.
942-0434 ; 75 Martha St.

SELF-HELP SOCIETY INC. Drop-in Activity Centre; having trouble coping with Life?
774-7622 ; 170 Arlington St.
774-1015 ;

ROSSBROOK HOUSE : Children Drop-in Centre
783-7101 ; 687 Ross St.

MA-MAWI CENTRE : W- I- C- HI- IT- ITA- Centre. Drop-in for Native Women.
531 Notre Dame Ave.

SEVEN OAKS CENTRE : Referral: Temporary housing for Children, who require secure care.
339-1934 ; 290 Drury Ave.

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE - one in each City Ward.
945-5110 ; 294 William Ave.

SALVATION ARMY HARBOUR LIGHT; 21 Residential Treatment Program; Male Alcohol Addicts.
943-5683 ; 324 Logan Ave.

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION.
775-8655 ; 836 Ellice Ave.

CANADIAN RED CROSS : Emergency Disaster Housing
772-2551 ; 226 Osborne St. N.

CONTACT-COMMUNITY INFORMATION - Phone 944-8555

A SAFE
HAVEN FOR
WOMEN
IN CRISIS
SITUATIONS.

- ABUSED?
- BATTERED?
- EVICTED?
- ADDICTED?
- DESERTED?
- NO PLACE TO TURN TO FOR HELP?

BALDWIN HOUSE

is for YOU!

THE
SALVATION ARMY'S
BALDWIN HOUSE

offers you:

- **CRISIS SHELTER AND BOARD**
- **REFERRALS FOR:**
  - **Legal**
  - **Financial**
  - **and Housing Aid**
- **WOMEN WITH, OR WITHOUT, CHILDREN MAY APPLY.**
- **ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM AVAILABLE!**

  If you or your spouse/partner are having trouble with drugs or alcohol, BALDWIN HOUSE is the place for you!

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

JOHN RODGERS - MAIN STREET PROJECT

The Main Street Project is a multi-service program, which has a crisis intervention centre, providing emergency referral services on a 24-hour basis.

They provide emergency shelter to people who are temporarily, or in some cases permanently, homeless. That doubles as a sobering-up station for people who are not necessarily homeless but who are inebriated and too drunk to get from point A to point B.

In addition they shelter 40-50 people per night, not always the same people. About 60% of the people in shelter are drunk, and they are only sheltered one night.

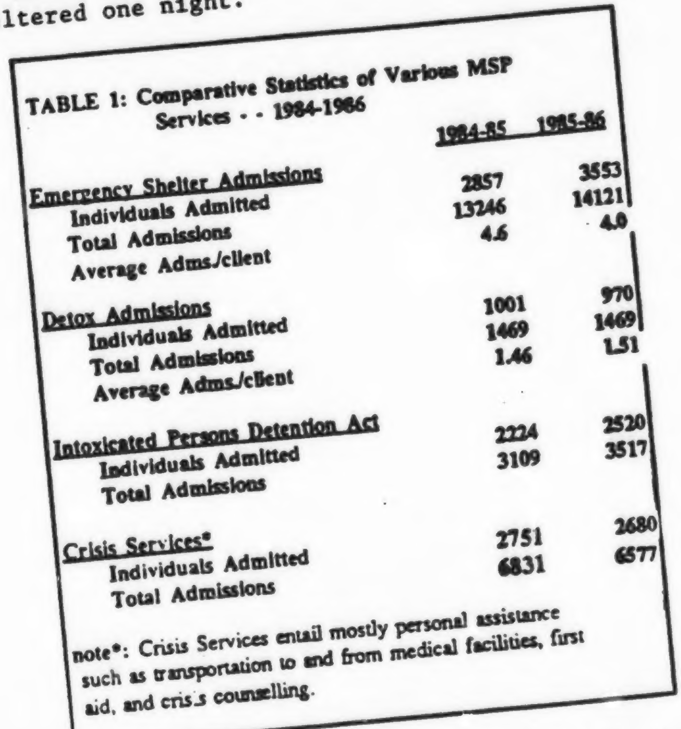

TABLE 1: Comparative Statistics of Various MSP Services - - 1984-1986

	1984-85	1985-86
Emergency Shelter Admissions		
Individuals Admitted	2857	3553
Total Admissions	13246	14121
Average Adms./client	4.6	4.0
Detox Admissions		
Individuals Admitted	1001	970
Total Admissions	1469	1469
Average Adms./client	1.46	1.51
Intoxicated Persons Detention Act		
Individuals Admitted	2224	2520
Total Admissions	3109	3517
Crisis Services*		
Individuals Admitted	2751	2680
Total Admissions	6831	6577

note*: Crisis Services entail mostly personal assistance such as transportation to and from medical facilities, first aid, and crisis counselling.

The philosophy of the Main Street Project is to treat the person not the symptom; a holistic approach. An example of this is money management for hostel clients.

CAPTAIN EYRE: BALDWIN HOUSE

Women and children come to Baldwin House for many and varied reasons. Many have been evicted and they have absolutely no place to go. Some are transient, some come from correctional institutions when they are released from prison. Their families have rejected them, they have no place to go. Some are fire victims, some have been deserted, some are abused, mentally and physically.

In their unit they offer twenty-eight day residential treatment program for chemically-dependent females. they offer this service to both singles and women with children. They offer child-care to enable women to attend classes and counselling to overcome their addiction. This offers her stability with her children, She doesn't have to place her children in foster care to seek treatment for herself. The children are looked after in the daytime and are cared for by the mothers at night. Some training in parenting skills are provided.

A client may stay as long as it takes to get her rehabilitated. If she is part of the chemically-dependant program - a mandatory day program- she must commit herslef to the full 28 day program. Women stay various lengths of time - 3 or 4 days - or a couple of weeks. Staff try to get them into an apartment, get them re-established, whatever their situation is.

JANET PAGE : AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH

Augustine is a neighbourhood drop-in centre people come to Augustine for help in finding shelter for the night, food,legal assistance, social services or medical help. To assist the poor families they run a free clothing depot. These same neighbourhood people take part in the work of the church, helping with mailings, etc. This provides an acceptance, a valuing of their contribution to Augustine. Because of their very limited incomes the condition of their homes is notpoor, fit only for a roof at night. Persons coming to Augustine have liestyle/or health problems such as alcohol and drug addictions,prison records,psychiatric disorders. In summer months some live outdoors on the river banks.

Sanctuary is provided and a sympathetic listener - silence is available for those who want to get away from the traffic and city noise.

SISTER LESLIE: ROSSBROOK HOUSE

Copy of presentation included with highlighting of 1) groups of homeless children and 2)recommendations.

Shelter for the Homeless   Sister Leslie of Rossbrook House

What I am going to be speaking on comes from my experience at Rossbrook House, though I won't always be speaking specifically on Rossbrook House. I want to address questions of: who are the homeless children? what happens to the? and what is a positive alternative that we can offer these children?

When I connect the word homelessness and children, I do not think of an issue that is critical, that is out there and that we have to do something about. What comes to my mind is Ruthie, Henry, Jason, Vernon, Mandy, Eugene, Leon, and that list can go on and on and on. These children whom I have just named are between the ages of seven and ten right now, or they were that age when I first met them on the street. When I think of homeless children, I think of them and I can almost see two different groups.

The first group I would term as absentees. These are the children who for one reason or another decide that they have to be absent from their homes, because there is a crisis going on there. Usually when that occurs it is between eleven at night or seven in the morning. Now those children will absent themselves maybe only for a few hours, sometimes it will be for a day or two. There are as many reasons as there are many different children, but normally there is drinking involved, fighting, and/or some form of sexual, physical or emotional abuse. But the key thing to always remember, is that when a child absents himself from home, that is not done lightly and so we must take those children seriously. We never must try to outguess them because of our backgrounds, no matter what they may be. Those are the children with the first hand facts and the knowledge of what is going on. Nine times out of ten, their judgement as to what should be done is the best judgement in that situation and we should usually act on it. So in the absentees there is that type of child.

There is also the group that I would term as the lost children. These are the children that end up in foster homes, group homes or some type of residential care and I call them lost children because that is how they feel inside. They really don't feel wanted anywhere and they don't feel that they belong anywhere. They end up in a group home or foster home, they have usually been an absentee for a length of time, they are under high stress and then they are forced to mix and live with a number of other children and staff. Those of you who are married or living with somebody, you know that no matter how much you have loved or love that person, when you come together and live in the same home, there are real adjustments to be made and it is stressful that first year. Well for these children and when its always changing, they are constantly never really feeling comfortable. Very often the rules, the regulations, are not the type of thing that they have had to live out in their day-to-day existence. Very often they get treated as children and childhood is a stage in their development that has been totally bypassed. A number of those children were never treated as children. They were making choices at the age of four, five, and six, and some of those choices were life and death choices. So for me when those children first start to run, those lost children to me are the chronic runners and they will continue to run. The boy I mentioned, Jason, he was seven and he could last about a week on the street in the Summer months before he was totally kind of falling apart. At that point I would find him in the porch sleeping and he would want to be turned in. So then he would end up in a group home, get a few good meals in his stomach, a few nights rest, and he would be out the bathroom window. They use to take his shoes and his clothes from him but he would always run - very creative, very intelligent and he knew and he wasn't about to follow any particular rules. Now, he could manage to live about seven days on the street. I am telling you, you and I would have a hard time doing what he was able to do. So we have got to respect those children, whether they are seven years old, eight or nine. They have got it together in their own little way. There is a lot missing but in the areas where they have lived, they are the experts.

Now, what happens to those children on the street? What happens to them? The first thing if it hasn't already disappeared, is school goes. Because there are pressures on at school and demands and even though they are not unreasonable at times, usually that is the first thing that a child will reject. The next thing is that the child has to quickly start to network. If any of you know anything about community development or networking and all the strategies in that, I would suggest to you some of your best teachers that could be brought into the universities would be these children. They maybe can't verbalize it, but if you hung out with them for a few days, you soon would know what community development is all about.

The second thing is that they find they are hungry. Many of them have been hungry in their homes but they become more hungry and when you're hungry you need to eat and when you don't have the money in your pocket or purse, or don't get invited to eat nice food like we had here, then you steal. So when you are in Safeway and see little kids out of school, ten to one they are out to get a quart of milk, an apple, or whatever the case may be.

I remember Vernon brought me home - and this was when he was in and out of his home, he was more or less an absentee - he brought me home a piece of homework. ..."I wish, it's great to".... and he was suppose to finish the sentence. Do you know what he wished for? What would be something you would figure a Grade two child would put on an "I wish list"? (response from the audience - A dog? A toy?) That's the type of thinking I had. You know what he wanted me to help him print - he couldn't even print his name - a chicken. I was just flabbergasted. I thought, now I'm not up on kids games, maybe this is some kind of new bike or whatever. I said "What do you mean a chicken?" he said "to eat." Now when you get a Grade two child who wants a chicken as his wish, that tells you something. He doesn't have to say anything more.

Sleeping becomes difficult. When a child goes on the run they begin to do the circuit, this friend, that friend, and when that circuit gets run out there are the abandoned buildings and then there are - these are their words and I hate to say them - "older men", who will be kind to them, who will take them in and for whom they end up doing sexual favors. When a child is in that kind of situation, a child has to have some kind of relief.

They are hungry. They are stressed out because of lack of sleep and so their sense of relief and what makes sense to them and what they can get their hands on is sniff. That is easily acceptable and it does the trick. So they sniff solvents and they get their money in prostitution if they move into that, which most of them do. Then they begin to shoot up with Talwin and Ritalin.

Most of the ones that I know, shoot rather than smoke up, but once that route has gone, what we have are bodies that look like children. We have young adults with broken spirits and over the years that I have been in inner city I have yet to see when we have allowed a child to get that far, a child really come out and make it. Something gets so destroyed that the way back - I would never say it's impossible - but it's near to it and so all we can do is love them, not judge them, listen to them, provide little opportunities wherever available not to make their situation any worse.

Now in terms of these young people, what we've got to do and this to me is what Rossbrook trys to do, we are not one hundred percent sure, but these children need an alternative at three and four in the morning.

If you were abused by your husband or you abused your husband and he is left out on the street, you have probably got a card where you can get into a hotel or you can go down to the police and they are going to listen to you and help you out. What does a child do? Where do they go at that time? If they don't have an aunt or an uncle right near, they go onto the street. That's where we've got to put our energy. The cycle has to be stopped right then. There has to be small little alternative places that are; 1) close by to them - so there have to be many of them, 2) that they are operating 24 hours - 365 days of the year, 3) they should be staffed by local people who walk the street, that they are familiar with, who know the families, that when a child comes in you don't have to pump that child with questions because you already have a sense of the family background that the child is coming from, and 4) that the place must not just be a crash place for children where they feel like a loser if they go there. So to me that place should be a kind of recreational, education opportunity, so that it is a more holistic type of environment. If we have a few of those pockets there and believe me it would be a lot cheaper if we could organize our system so that there were those pockets out there. Then those children when something happened would have a place to go and once they have had a few hours of respite or whatever, they would be able to return to their home and that's where they want to be. Essentially most children want to be home.

Ninety eight percent of us in this room I am sure slept in a bed last night. Most of us were able to wash up this morning and put on clean clothes. We had breakfast and we know the end of the day will come at 4 o'clock, 5 or 7 o'clock but we know where we're heading tonight. You know how you would feel if those things weren't in place. You know how you'd feel about yourself if you looked grubby, if you smelled and if you didn't know where you were going to go when you leave this room. Even worse, you know how you would feel if it was your child out there.

In my opinion, no child in Winnipeg should ever have to break and enter in order to find a place to sleep, should ever have to steal in order to eat, or should ever have to prostitute in order to feel loved. No child who doesn't want to be alone should ever have to be alone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Winnipeg lacks treatment centres for persons with multiple problems where the person will be treated as a whole. Hostels for both men and women receive long-term assessment and counselling rather than a quick assessment in response to an immediate crisis. Providing the three basics of food,clothing and shelter for the chronically homeless then helping them to change behaviour to the point they will be able to move into community housing. These must be problem-solving based, not the traditional treatment programs that have failed hese people repeatedly.

The persons requiring this type of facility are at present using many services,emergency departments of hospitals, welfare, drunk-tanks. Services provided in response to one crisis after another.

(2) See page 5 Rossbrook House report for needs of children for safe haven that respects their needs.

(3) Since homeless people are chronic users of social services the tracking of a sample of homeless through the system would determine the real economic cost of homelessness and the frustration of referral from agency to agency. As an example, a case of pneumonia developing from a common cold costs +$600. a day for hospital care. The knowledge of real costs might motivate political decisions to help solve the problem.

provincial council of women

P.O. Box 1306, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 2Z1

COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF WINNIPEG

ESTABLISHED 1894

IN FEDERATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA & THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Council of Women of Winnipeg and the Provincial Council of Women will hold a public meeting Wednesday, October 28 at 12:00 noon at the Salvation Army, 400 Colony. The following speakers will take part in a panel discussion:

Sister Leslie, Rossbrook House
Janet Page, Augustine United Church
John Rodgers, Main Street Project
A representative from Baldwin House.

The subject will be The Homeless in Winnipeg.

Coffee and biscuits will be available for 35¢.

The Council is a federation of women's groups in Winnipeg, and all are welcome to attend.

For further information call: Margaret McKinnon 888-7531 or
Elizabeth Fleming 453-4211.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF WINNIPEG

ESTABLISHED 1894

IN FEDERATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA & THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

No. 2 - 1987/1988

GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1987
SALVATION ARMY CITADEL
400 Colony Street

A Noon Hour Public Meeting
11:45 - Bring your bag lunch
Coffee and dainties, 35 cents
12:00 - Panel Discussion

THE HOMELESS IN WINNIPEG:
A Problem for this year and next...

1:00 - Business Meeting

Members of the panel will be:

John Rogers from the Main Street Project
Janet Page from Augustine United Church
A representative from Rossbrook House
A representative from Baldwin House.

The subject of homelessness has been chosen as the topic for all local councils in order to focus national attention on the International Year. All meetings will be held in the last week of October. We look forward to this challenging presentation.

For November - An innovation for Winnipeg. A Living City Museum, is being proposed as a forum for discussion of the city's future. Prof. Nancy Maruca of the Faculty of Architecture will illustrate her explanation with slides. This meeting will be held in the Parlour of Young United Church, Furby and Broadway on November 18th at 11.45 a.m. At that meeting we will also be voting on the Provincial Resolutions. Federates should try to vote on these before that date so the representatives can bring your opinions to the meeting.

LOCAL NEWS

Remember our Fashion Extravaganza, Sunday, October 25th at the Marlborough. It will be an exciting event for our members and friends. See you there.

Life member Marie Laing has had to move from Lions' Manor and is in hospital. She is receiving her mail care of Macdonald Murray, 1445 - 444 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg, R3C 3T1.

BURNABY COUNCIL OF WOMEN

TO ROSSLYN TETLEY, COORDINATOR
THE COMMON PROGRAMME PROJECT: THE HOMELESS

A Report from Burnaby Council of Women, for Oct. 27 and Nov.9/87

Burnaby Council of Women arranged for a speaker for the regular meeting of Oct. 27 , with discussion of the housing situation in Burnaby, particularly as it involved the problems of women under stress. Speaker was Wenda Erickson, Administrator of Lifeline Society Transition House in Burnaby.

On Nov.9, Burnaby Council prepared a reception for the Nov.21 candidates for mayor and aldermen. Invitations delivered to the candidates explained our interest in "Shelter for the Homeless". This group responded with interest and it appears evident that rising land values and a continued flood of high-rise apartments wipes out many many moderately priced rental accommodations. Example:-there is no low rent housing available for battered women. The meeting considered leasing of land to cut down the costs of new housing.

President Mrs. Iola Barkley welcomed the guests, and Jean Crowley, Program Convenor, chaired while fourteen condidates spoke for three minutes each.

U.N. posters were displayed, and Council of Women printed material was available. Light refreshments were served.

National Convenor Bev Clarke attended the meeting.

Burnaby Council officers posted bulletins for Nov.9, and a small ad was placed in the Burnaby Now newspaper. The event was held in the large hall in West Burnaby United Church.

With this effort, we believe the future Municipal Council in Burnaby will be aware of our interest, and future inquiries on the subject can be more easily handled.

reported by Jean Crowley
Secretary Jean Crowley
Burnaby Council of Women

Unicef
Jean Crowley
5806 Wales St.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5R 3N5

BURNABY COUNCIL OF WOMEN

PRESENTS A PROGRAMME

honouring

1987's UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF

"Shelter for the Homeless"

Come and hear our Speaker:

WENDA ERICKSON,

Administrator of the Jean Dixon Transition
House. . . . . .LIFELINE SOCIETY

at

12 NOON. . . . . NOVEMBER 9,1987
WEST BURNABY UNITED CHURCH hall
6050 Sussex Avenue
(Across from the Post Office)

Special Guests: Municipal Candidates,
BURNABY ELECTION

**** A L L W E L C O M E ! ****

Light lunch Refreshments - Tea, Coffee,etc.
Collection (optional)

"Decent Shelter is a woman's right"........INSTRAW

Local Council of Women —
Calgary, Alberta

The Calgary Local Council of Women hosted a community seminar on "Homelessness" on October 27, 1987, with 35 people present.

The guest speaker was Major Elva Jolly, Executive Director of the local Salvation Army's "Children's Village", an officer for 20 years and a member of the Provincial Placement Committee of the Child Welfare Department.

Major Jolly spoke of the children she has met, their comments, their openness, and their love. She related the stories about the 78 children she cares for daily, some as young as 2½ years old, and her 1987 experiences living in the streets of Winnipeg and Calgary. She also related the horrendous statistics associated with homeless children.

She stated that Canada has 7 million children, 2 million who live in poverty; 80 thousand of these need protection and yet remain largely invisible in social policy and planning . The youth of this country - aged 15 - 24 number well over 1 million with an identified 82% who have been judged clinically depressed, and an identified 70% who have been sexually or physically abused. Their suicide rate is four times our national average and 70% come from middle class families.

Major Jolly ended her presentation with a song, the distribution of brochures on Child Abuse, and stated that the children are "Damaged - yes - but not destroyed".

Submitted by

Lynne Arling

Vice-President
Calgary Local Council of Women

TELEPHONES
OFFICE: 483-0218 488-3510
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GUARDIAN BUILDING
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10030 - 115 St.
T5K 1T1

P.E. SIMONDS, M.D., R.C.P.S.(C)
PSYCHIATRY
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Nov.2/87

Doreen Kissick
President: National Council of Women of Canada
792 Burden St.
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 4C4

Dear Mrs.Kissick

As president of the Local Council of Women of Edmonton, I would like to report on a very successful event which we held Oct.28th. Within our format of a Founder's Day Tea, we dealt with the subject of 'Homelessness in Your Home Town', by having, as our guest speaker, Prof. Gayle James from the Social Work Faculty of the University of Alberta. Professor James gave a one-hour presentation which was a most enlightening, 'state of the art' account of what is going on with the homeless in Canada & in our community. She had attended the world congress of social work in Vienna in Sept., on which the subject of homelessness was focussed. She was thus able to give us some glimpses of the 'bigger picture' of definitions of homelessness as this applies in developed nations as cf. to the developing nations.

Our tea attracted the attendance of one of Edmonton's M.L.As.; Pam Barrett(NDP); the head of our province's Advisory Council on Women's Affairs, Margaret Leahey & several of her council members, including our own Olga Cylurik. We felt that we had 'gotten the ear' of a number of influential women in our community. The personal secretary of Mrs.Don Getty's wife, Mrs. Parker, attended in the absence of Mrs.Getty. Most of our member organizations had representation at this event. Total attendance approached 100 persons...including several interested men, as well...one being a board member of the V.O.N.

Certainly we would like to be able to do something palpable for the homeless in our city, but since our member organizations include the Edmonton Women's Shelter, we feel that our role in being 'information broker' to the women of Edmonton is both directly & indirectly affecting, in a positive way, the actual work of providing shelter to both homeless &/or battered women. It was interesting that Professor James pointed out that the greatest number of beds now available in Canada for homeless women is through just such provision...sheltering for battered women. Much needs to be done for the homeless that are psychiatrically ill &/or destitute. The growing number of 'displaced housewives'; the ageing of the population; the loss of inexpensive housing(via the bulldozer), are all combining to make this a growing group. We were all given much 'food for thought'.

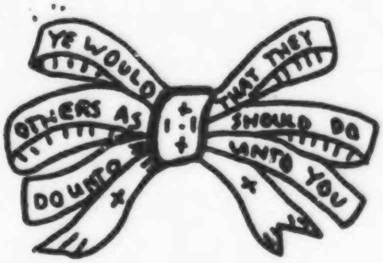
Our tea was held at the Provincial Museum. This turned out to be an excellent venue. The curator of domestic history, Gladys Serafino, arranged for a display of 2 attractive gowns from the era of Lady Aberdeen. We had hoped for a slightly larger display, but were grateful for the availability of these materials. On a future occasion, we might request something similar, with a larger array of items, especially additional apparel such as hats, jewellery, et al. The availability of such materials can certainly make a historical museum an excellent location for a tea...as long as there is a suitable area available.

We accomplished our goal as well, of raising some well-needed funds for the activities of our local council. Expenses such as copying, mailing & so forth, have increased to a point where at least one fund-raising activity becomes necessary. We cannot cover expenses from the annual memberships alone.

Sincerely

Pat Simonds - Eglinski

Mrs.Patricia(Dwight) Eglinski (Simonds)



Fort St. John Local Council of Women

Council of Women

The Council of Women held a tea this month to celebrate their founding day October 27, 1893. The theme this year, as dictated by the national council was to be on "Homelessness" and what our community was doing about it.

After our study we in the council have come to the conclusion that if people sleep in the street in Fort St. John it is only because they didn't know who or how to ask for shelter.

The possibility that we could make information more available in our city to those in need should be investigated.

We are to have a speaker on Emergency Shelter in case of natural or civil disasters in the new year.

SHELTER FOR HOMELESS

In our city we have an established residence known as the Mosaye House at 9708-102nd Avenue, that is available to those in need of accommodation or counselling on a 24-hour basis.

The length of stay in this residence varies according to the need, anywhere from two days to two months. The average stay is five days. The Ministry of Human Resources, however, is very supportive if a request for an extended stay is needed.

No alternate housing for these people is available and it does not seem necessary at this time. Most women and children return to families or friends. However, arrangements for alternate housing through B.C. Housing is available or the staff at Mosaye help in finding accommodation for those in need.

Much use of these facilities here is made by women who are relocating from a job elsewhere, cannot find accommodation or have just gotten out of prison and are in a transitional situation.

Only about 25 per cent of these services are for battered women, the other 75 per cent service the above.

The Fort Hotel has three double rooms to be used as a Hostel plus $10.00 a day food vouchers for each person, for any one travelling through. They are usually recommended by the Police or Social Services. This is paid for by welfare.

Social Services are prepared to help anyone in need with whatever they need, a home, advice, money, etc.

The Landlords Assocation can supply emergency apartments, if called.

A Provincial Emergency Programme, including shelter is in the process of being set up in our Province in case of Disasters occuring in any area. The Co-ordinator for all the top half of our Province would like to speak to our Council on this subject at our meeting.

They are going to use many volunteers in this programme as they are more apt to know the area and people to help.

HALIFAX HOMELESS
OPEN FORUM

WITH

REPRESENTATIVES FROM—

- CITY OF HALIFAX (SOCIAL SERVICES)
- ADSUM HOUSE (WOMEN)
- BRYONY HOUSE (BATTERED WOMEN)
- PHOENIX HOUSE (YOUNG ADULTS)
- SALVATION ARMY (MEN)

PANEL DISCUSSION. QUESTIONS

PUBLIC MEETING

TIME: 7:30 P.M, TUESDAY, OCT 27

PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE
989 YOUNG AVENUE

ALL WELCOME

SPONSORED BY

LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
HALIFAX

ADSUM NEWS NOTES

2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 2Z4
[illegible]29-4443

[illegible] Emergency Shelter for Women

FEBRUARY 1988 Vol. 5 No. 1

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless has drawn to a close. What happens next? How will the recommendations made by the many who joined forces to work on new and innovative ways to meet the needs of the poor be translated into action? Will the result of this year's work be a measurable improvement in the living conditions of the world's poor by the year 2000? That, after all, was one of the United Nations' primary objectives for the year.

During the past year the numbers of women approaching the doors of Adsum House have not decreased. Four hundred women and over 60 children have been sheltered, bringing the totals since the house began its service in December 1983 to over 2000 women and 200 children.

But who are these people that we speak of? The myth that the homeless are largely the architects of their own misfortunes is slowly being eroded. The problem for the homeless poor is less their defectiveness than it is their disenfranchisement from work, decent housing, legitimate income, support and appropriate care. In a Christmas editorial, the Washington Post observed:

> [illegible] require [illegible] into madness or alcohol[illegible] earn you a spot on the grates. All [illegible] broken family, lost savings, a disability [illegible] the government's standards for aid, or [illegible]
>
> [illegible] by [illegible]en, or [illegible] accomplished, but [illegible] will respond to [illegible] challenge.

Susan Bulger
Executive Director

◆◆◆

How "SCAW" began

From Murray Dryden's hobby of photographing sleeping children came the idea of a retirement project — he and his late wife Margaret decided to provide 'bed kits' to fifty homeless children in India in 1970. For children in developing countries suffering from hunger and sickness, the reality of their need became greater with each trip overseas to supervise distributions for the new Canadian charitable organization - "SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD". All team members pay their own expenses. Murray made his fifteenth trip around the world — humanitarian travel, he terms it -- in December, 1987, going back to the Himalayas.

Each child is photographed with his or her kit as proof that a donation has reached a specific child. Each kit has a card with the donor's name, town or city and country. Volunteers mail the photographs, with tax receipts, thus making donors feel involved in a personal way in helping alleviate the suffering of children.

The majority of donors are individuals, with schools, church groups, Scouts, Guides, service clubs and the corporate community making up the rest. 80% of donations come from Canada. The U.S.A. and Australia also participate.

What is a "SCAW" bed kit?

Each $28. bed kit consists of a groundsheet, mattress, sheets, pyjamas, blanket (or mosquito netting if climate warrants it), sweater or other clothing, personal care items -- up to 20 items per kit.

Why 'bed kits'?

Having known many nights without a bed or food during the Depression, Murray Dryden feels that a few hours of comfort, for a suffering child who has never known a bed, can take his or her mind off hunger and sickness — and that this is a basic right of every child ...

"SCAW" Overseas Team Members have been:

Murray & Margaret Dryden, Islington, Ont.
Dr. Gordon & June Brown, Harrow, Ont.
Jim & Bette Sergeant, Tillsonburg, Ont.
John & Marjorie Quinney, Strathroy, Ont.
Ken Ireland, Mississauga, Ont.
Jim Dent, Windsor, Ont.
Nancy Martin, Thunder Bay, Ont.
Mabel Wilmut, Westmount, Que.
Kay Yager, Etobicoke, Ont.
Ann Nishio, Etobicoke, Ont.
"Fletch" Manning, Reston, Man.
Kathy Mite, Mississauga, Ont.
Oressa Hubbert, Mississauga, Ont.
Sharon Holmes, Oakville, Ont.
Laura Harper, Oakville, Ont.
Gordon & Marion Sherwin, Baltimore, Ont.

HAMILTON

FROM AN OVERSEAS "SCAW" TEAM MEMBER:

"I wish you could see the children's reaction when they are given their kits .... they just can't believe all that it contains AND that it is theirs to KEEP and share with family members (siblings often take turns enjoying the warmth and comfort of the bed kit). Most of the children have never owned anything in their entire lives and this is their very first bed."

"Many walk four or five hours over very difficult terrain to the distribution point. Often we feed them before they leave and it is an unforgettable sight to see them happily winding their way homeward with their kits on their heads..."

- * There is nothing more peaceful than a sleeping child ...
- * Many will sleep better knowing they have put a child in his or her first bed

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the [illegible]t of

HAMILTON

This presentation helped the Council realize that while we may have local housing shortages, needs in Third World countries are also our concern.

2) Council Display at Woman's World

As a major part of our display, we made available pamphlets from community organizations which are meeting the shelter needs of special groups of people as a way of informing the many attending Woman's World of services which already exist in the community. Copies of these are enclosed.

3) YWCA Housing Conference, Toronto

Council sent Sophia Gubbins, a member of the Women's Innovative Housing Group, to represent us at the YWCA Housing Conference in Toronto. She reported to the November meeting of Council in verbal form. From the workshops and panels she attended, she felt the NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) syndrome was an important issue for Council's attention. She ended up providing considerable input to the conference from her experience setting up a cooperative apartment project for single women between 40 and 59, which is scheduled for completion in April. She had planned to complete a written report for inclusion with this document, but unfortunately, she came down with the flu and was sick for a month. During that time, she was hired as the director of a Women's Shelter in Owen Sound, a position which began Jan. 1, just after her return from Christmas with family in the Maritimes. Thus, there is no written report.

4) Housing Convener

Sophia Gubbins agreed to become our Council Housing Convener to follow up on the conference for us. We had not had a housing convener for the previous year and a half, possibly longer.

5) Research Materials

Council purchased several studies on housing from the Social Planning and Research Council to have for our own files. Sophia had planned to use material from them for articles on the Hamilton housing situation for our Council newsletters.

6) Honouring the Women's Innovative Housing Group

Council has invited the five group members remaining in Hamilton to provide background on the housing scene and specifically on their first project at our Annual Meeting Luncheon, Saturday, March 5. They will be our guests, and we are providing them with an honorarium for their work.

LONDON

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

LAND SUPPLY FOR NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT

Whereas, one of the most critical elements for the successful operation of the private and co-operative non-profit corporations is the availability of an adequate supply of land. This land must be appropriately zoned and serviced within a few months; and

Whereas, until recently many registered plans of subdivision contained undeveloped blocks of land zoned for rowhouse development. This supply has diminished significantly by both increased non-profit development and by rezoning for lower density residential uses and commercial uses while areas which are available are often near existing non-profit developments and therefore less desirable from the point of view of integrating non-profit development into the fabric of the community; and

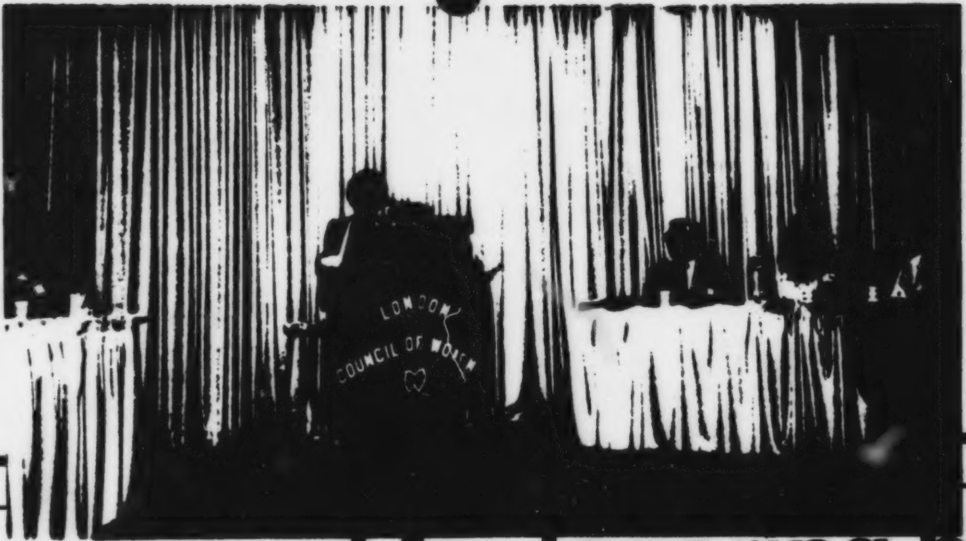
Whereas, there is no provincial legislation which enables a municiplaity to reserve sites in a plan of subdivision for non-profit housing development; and

Whereas, Section 36 of the Planning Act, the only available mechanism which allows a municipality to make certain requirements of a developer in return for specified increases in height or density of development to be permitted, does not seem to be an appropriate mechanism for achieving sites suitable for low cost family housing; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to pass enabling legislation which will permit municipalities to require that developers of any major plans of subdivision (50 acres or more) reserve for up to 5 years, 10 percent of the land to be used for development which will provide rent supplement units or sold for the development of non-profit housing at market value.

Background Report of the Special Study Group - LOW COST FAMILY RENTAL ACCOMODATION, City of London

**** The above resolution has been submitted as a direct response to concerns and recommendations brought forward at the London Council of Women Program, "Our Homeless" on October 27, 1987 in celebration of 1987-International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.



Londoners rapped for ignoring homeless

By Dahlia Reich
London Free Press

Londoners have done a poor job of looking after each other when it comes to the homeless, the executive director of Women's Community House said Tuesday.

"We're a pretty comfortable people and because we're comfortable we don't look at what's happening," Jan Richardson said. "We don't take much responsibility in taking care of each other. We put a stigma on people who need help. We put them in a box and close our eyes instead of saying they are one of us and it could happen to anyone."

Richardson said "it takes each one of us to effect some change." Those changes should be to government policies to ensure "that no person be without a home."

She was among a panel of speakers at the central library discussing the plight of the homeless in London in recognition of United Nation's 1987 International Year of the Homeless. The event, which attracted about 60 people, was sponsored by the London Council of Women.

Women's Community House, an emergency shelter for battered women, who should be included in the homeless population, Richardson said, took in about 420 women and children last year and turned away the same number because of lack of space.

During their stay at the home, staff help find more permanent accommodations for the women and children, a frustrating job because of a lack of low-income housing in the city.

The situation is so serious, she said, the organization is creating a building for use as interim housing for an additional three to six months to allow women more time to adjust and find an apartment. Construction is expected to begin in December.

Horace Roberts, branch director of Mission Services of London, men's division, said emergency programs such as its York Street shelter are penalized if the men stay longer than the allotted 42 days, a common occurrence because of the bed shortage for the homeless.

The service receives $17.78 per person each day from the city to care for the occupants but that figure drops to $13.19 after 42 days, Roberts said. Although the men are encouraged to find accommodation elsewhere, many are unable to do so. No one is asked to leave.

The shelter isn't paid for youths under age 18, he added, unless the young man is approved by the city social services department. It may take a few days to obtain approval but Roberts said the youths are not turned away. The men at the shelter range in age from 16 to 83.

KymWolfe of Youth Opportunities Unlimited, an employment counselling service, said being homeless is a vicious circle.

"You need an address to get a job and a job to get an address. It's hard to feel good about presenting yourself for employment if you have no address, didn't sleep the night before, or spent the night on a park bench or under a car."

To be approved for welfare, a person also needs an address, said Sheila Davenport, director of the London Urban Resource Centre, which operates a housing registry for those seeking accommodation. She said low-income three-bedroom apartments are in high demand and it's increasingly difficult to place families.

1987-INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE HOMELESS

Our Homeless

Who are they?
Who is helping them and how?
What problems exist in reaching the homeless and in providing shelter to them?
What does the future hold for our homeless?

PARTICIPANTS:

Sheila Davenport - London Urban Resource Centre

Jan Richardson - Executive Director, Women's Community House

Horace Roberts - Mission Services of London, Men's Division

Kym Wolfe - Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Y.O.U.

Howard Pulver - Director of Housing Division, Advisory Council, City of London

Bruce Taylor - Chairman of the Board, Warner Place

Brian Parsons - Community Homes of Western Ontario

MODERATOR: Connie Cunningham - Housing Chairperson, London Council of Women

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1987
7:30 P.M.
CENTRAL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
305 QUEENS AVENUE

> "And homeless near a thousand homes
> I stood,
> And near a thousand tables pined and
> wanted food."
> William Wordsworth
> Guilt and Sorrow, St. 41

NO CHARGE **BRING YOUR QUESTIONS**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Cosponsored: London Council of Women

London Public Libraries and Museums '87

[illegible] needs of [illegible]

[illegible] public [illegible] for [illegible] services [illegible] the [illegible] the types of women and children from all walks of life who come for shelter. Present facilities are not [illegible]

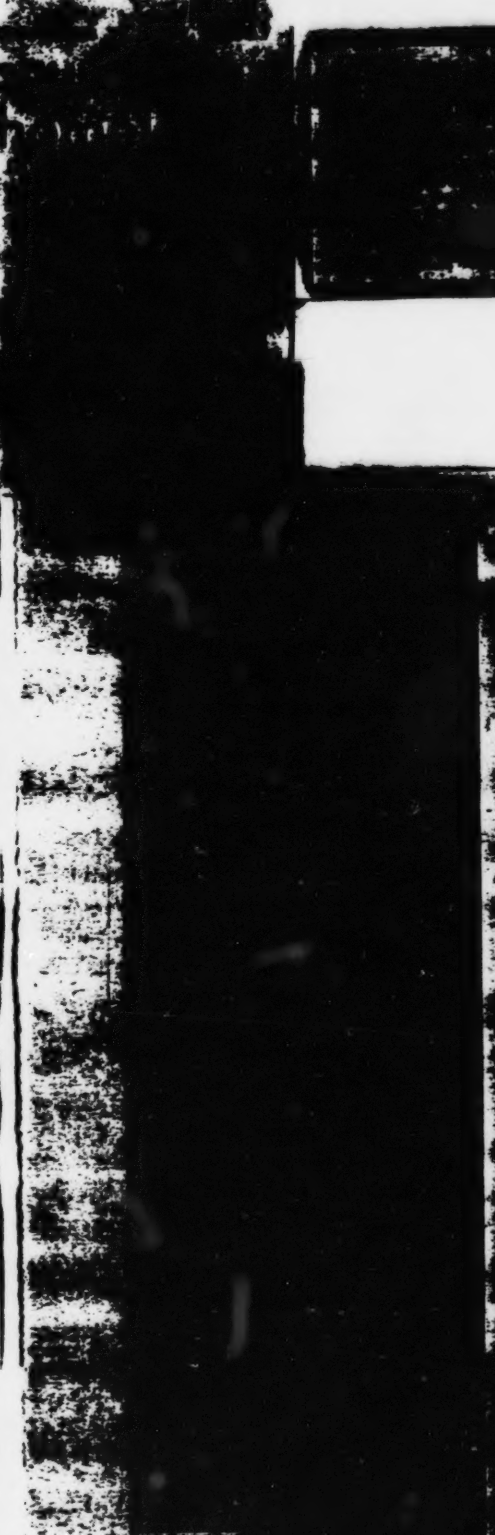
[illegible] director [illegible] explained [illegible] doing [illegible] of the problems facing these persons [illegible] to the [illegible] daily [illegible] do talk [illegible] their problems and needs.

Representing [illegible]

In giving a summary of [illegible] to the [illegible] future. [illegible] types of [illegible] developed [illegible] needs of [illegible]

Margaret [illegible] president of the [illegible] Association, [illegible] effect [illegible] the children of the [illegible] involved. She urged a better understanding of these problems by the community in general.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women, represented by



Left [illegible] Advisory Council of Women; and [illegible] housing; Captain W. [illegible] the House of Nazareth Hostel of the [illegible]; Vivian Steeves, president of

"Interim Relief Housing", chaired by Judith Murray of the CBC, was an interesting panel discussion. Ms. Murray, in her introductory challenged the speakers: "We hope to get to the heart of the problem and perhaps find a solution".

John Gardiner, member of the Executive Committee of Montreal, responsible for Housing and Urban Development, opened his address by stating that it is clear to all of us that work must go on even though the year of the homeless is over.

Our consideration is for those men and women of very low income, abondoned by their families, who are unable to meet expenses for the next sixty days. They lack a stable home, try to live downtown in rooms where all facilities are shared. Some even live outside. These are the people who fall through the cracks of the social agencies.

The present Municipal Government has reduced the standards required for rooming houses so that landlords will be encouraged to repair rather than sell for demolition. The attitude of government to landlords has also changed, and federal/provincial subsidies make repairs possible at minimum cost. Parallel to improvement of the 9000 existing rooms is a need to increase stock, and to renovate the quarters of benevolent associations that offer interim shelter. Those selected for government support will also need to rely on private contributions. Concerned and luckier people have a responsibility tothe unfortunate.

Fran Riley, Executive Director of Auberge Transition, pointed out that women are discriminated against because they are usually young, single mothers on welfare. Prior to 1975 when the Y.W.C.A. established a shelter, women could not take their children with them to existing hospices. In 1979, the shelter moved to N.D.G. where the clientele consists of two main groups: single mothers (20%), and those aged 18-29. Ninety percent exist on welfare. Even though a young mother receives child allowances it is usually impossible for her to meet rent and utilities cost and still have enough left for all the rest.

Only one family out of 278 managed to get into Montreal's low-cost housing last year, yet decent housing is a big factor in how children turn out.

Ms. Riley believes that Montreal authorities should consult with agencies about in-house needs. Initial costs for constructing dwellings with such amenities as day care centres, in the long run it will prove cheaper, for mothers will be able to take training or to work and eventually get off welfare.

Mrs. Tremaine, president of Chez Doris, feels that many of the homeless have resigned themselves to the 'victim role' - street, room, street, prison. Although they find some relief at Chez Doris where they receive meals, the real need is for secure refuges where the rent will not eat up the budget. there should be no need for women to resort to acts of desperation, such as disturbing the peace in order to find shelter in a prison or at Douglas Hospital where costs run to $11,000 per year in treatment. A safe refuge such as St. Dominic's, costs only $1,000 per person.

What can WE do? Write letters to each level of government requesting that safe housing units be provided for pensioners and battered, psychologically impaired persons. WE can be the support needed.

[illegible]

NEW GLASGOW

EVENING NEWS - OCT 30/87

The Local Council of Women (LCW) responded to a challenge of the national council to bring the needs of the homeless to focus Thursday by sponsoring a panel discussion. 1987 is International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. A four-member panel centred on relevant housing issues in Pictou County. From left Eleanor Fraser, LCW executive member and panel moderator discussed the format with LCW treasurer Bernice Cross (seated) and panelist Salvation Army Capt. Tom Browne, (standing), prior to start of discussion.

(News photo by Sandra Secord)

Home can be a park bench

NEW GLASGOW — Homeless, the word conjures up images of bag ladies and derelicts on the streets of large cities.

Are there homeless people in Pictou County?

A panel discussion sponsored by the Local Council of Women here Thursday reveals, that, yes there are homeless right here. Rev. Brian Weatherdon, one of four panelists observed "It's not just their problem, it's our problem. Our community is less than it should be if we allow these conditions to exist."

Jayne MacCarthy, executive director of the Pictou County Help Line offered two definitions of homeless — absolute homeless and relative homeless.

Relative homelessness is more prevalent in Pictou County, she said, evident in cases where people's basic needs are not met.

Bernadette MacDonald of the Pictou County Women's Centre cited problems encountered by local women identified in a recent study conducted by the centre. The three major problems are discrimination because of being on social assistance, having children, and being a woman, she said. These women are essentially homeless, by virture of being unable to find adequate housing, she said.

Single parent families led by women are paying extremely large amounts for rent in sub-standard accommodations which often reflects 50 per cent or more of their income, MacDonald said. Between 1971 and 1981 there has been an increase of 51 per cent in female-led families in Canada.

"The whole system needs to be revamped" to reflect the changing realities of housing requirements, MacDonald challenged.

Salvation Army Capt. Tom Browne said lack of information on available government regulation and housing programs is one of the problems.

Citing some of the problems in the community, Browne referred to people who are not able to fend for themselves such as those who are now more readily released from the Nova Scotia Hospital, than they were in prior years.

There is no hostel in the Pictou County area for transients or the emergency homeless.

SIX CATEGORIES

Help line calls indicate the types of housing problems being encountered locally. The calls fall into six categories: people trying to find a place to live; people trying to find affordable accommodations, large families having difficulty finding rental accommodations, people trying to find dwellings with specific features such as ramps for disabled; a search for rooming and boarding houses and transients looking for shelter for one or two nights.

There are people in Pictou County living in fields, old cars and tents, MacCarthy said, who frequent malls and coffee shops during the day. "This is not as distressing in the summer months as it is in the winter," she said.

Weatherdon challenged the audience of approximately 40 women in the Salvation Army downstairs hall saying "I hope this discussion leads somewhere."

NEW GLASGOW

Notes from a speech on the Homeless in Pictou County, October 30, 1987

The United Nations chose a very broad definition of homelessness which includes:

ABSOLUTE HOMELESSNESS - i.e. street people, victims of diasters

RELATIVE HOMELESSNESS - i.e. persons whose homes don't meet basic standards such as protection from the elements, sanitation; housing that costs more than can be afforded

At Help Line we receive more calls from individuals who would be considered "relative homeless".

In looking at the statistics of the Line there are six (6) main categories relating to homelessness, as follows:

(1.) FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE - To date (March 87 - Sept 87) the Help Line has received 57 calls from individuals looking for an apartment, house, etc. to rent. Some of our callers have exhausted all other leads and turn to the Help Line as a last resort. Some callers have heard that the Help Line has a list of landlords and call to get their names and numbers, which we do give out.

(2.) FINDING AN AFFORDABLE TO PLACE TO LIVE - A family with a monthly income of $600.00 who are spending $400.00/month for rent, not including heat, are not living in an affordable home. There is no specific category in our statistics to record this, but affordability of shelter is definitely reflected in our calls for food, clothing and financial assistance. I have often heard a caller - a mother or father - say, "We've paid our rent and we've paid our power bill and now we have $50 left for food for the rest of the month."

(3.) DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SHELTER FOR A LARGE FAMILY - or a family with a lot of young children.

(4.) DWELLINGS WITH SPECIAL FACILITIES - such as wheelchair ramps, security locked buildings, etc.

(5.) ROOMING/BOARDING HOUSES - there is simply no way many people can afford an apartment, and even if the rent was affordable there is no furniture, etc. This individual needs a roomin/boarding house. In our area these types of accommodations are rarely advertised

(6.) TRANSIENTS - This indiviudal is just passing through our area and needs shelter for one or two nights. The closetst shelter is in Halifax.

Where do the homeless go? We've heard of people sleeping in fields, park benches, living in cars and tents. Let me assure you it is not as distressing to hear this in the summertime as it is in the wintertime. Callers tell us that they hang out in malls, coffee shops, any warm place for as long as possible before returning to their "Home", be it a car or a park bench.

What is available locally? The United Nations definition of temporary and emergency housing includes:

- Foster homes
- Orphanges
- Maternity homes
- Half way houses for psychiatric patients, physically and mentally disabled persons, and ex-offenders
- Transition houses for victims of family violence
- Overnight shelters for the destitute or refugees

In our county we have foster homes, group homes for the mentally and physically disabled, and a transition house for victims of family violence. The services available cannot meet the needs of our callers.

I would like to leave you with an example of a call received at the Help Line. A 17 year old male, an "A" student, called because he was being abused, both emotionally and physically by his mother. It was late in the school year and he was in Grade 12, and would be receiving scholarships to continue his education. He realized his future was in his education, and he was afraid that he would have to quit school and get a job in order to live. His mother had threatened repeatedly to throw him out of the house, but he felt he might have to leave anyway, it just wasn't safe to stay there anymore. Today she had attacked him with a knife. He had substained minor injuries and had managed to disarm her. He said," I can't hit her, she's my mother", but he was terrified of her. His father was sympathetic but passive.

I'd like to be able to tell you that we solved this caller's problems, and he lived happily ever after, but I can't/ At the Help Line the only feedback we receive comes from our clients letting us know how things worked out, and this doesn't happen often. We were able to give hime some options, and some hope.

I chose this scenario to illustrate that discussions of the homeless should not just include those who are visible, on the street, not to diminish their plight in any way, but shold also include those who live in substandard housing or unaffordable housing or are forced to stay in untolerable situations.

New Westminster Council of Women

INVITES YOU

TO HEAR TALKS ON

"THE DETACHED YOUTH PROGRAM"

SPEAKERS: CPL. G. DONNELLY AND
MR. A. JOHNSON

ALSO

"WESTMINSTER HOUSE"

SPEAKERS: DR. F. HARDER AND
MILLIE MITCHELL

ON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1987, AT 1:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM
NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
716 - 6TH AVE. NEW WESTMINSTER

ALL WELCOME TO THESE PROGRAMS OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY!

TEA WILL BE SERVED

New Westminster Council of Women

INVITES YOU TO A PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

SUBJECTS WILL BE:

"ASSESSMENT FOR ADMITTANCE TO REST HOMES"

MRS. L. JOHNSON

AND

"TASK FORCE ON SENIORS' HOUSING"

MRS. C. STRANDBERG

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, I P.M.

NEW WESTMINSTER LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

TO RECOGNIZE

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

NEW WESTMINSTER COUNCIL OF WOMEN

President: Mrs. Freda P. Hogg

1109 - 7th Ave
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 2J6
Telephone 522-6793

September 7, 1987

Programs - September 1987 - March, 1988

To All Federate Presidents:

We are forwarding the plans for the meetings for the next six months in order that we may have the interest of your members and their help in making our Council programs a success.

The 1987 National Council of Women of Canada Common Program project, the week of October 26 - 30, is designated as the "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless". That week also draws attention to the founding of the Council on October 27, 1893.

September 23 Meeting

At this meeting, therefore, we will be planning two special programs for October and November with the "Homeless" theme in mind; one of which is the result of lack of proper homes, or home influence for young people - the second the need for suitable homes for the elderly.

In addition, short reports will be heard from the following conveners: Safety/Recreation; Citizenship/Immigration; Health/Welfare; Mass Media; Hospitality; and Resolutions (none received as yet). Our Archivist will also have a short reading.

October 28

a) Cpl G. Donnelly, of the NewWestminster Police Dept, will speak on the "Detached Youth Program". In this program he will describe the need for drop-in accommodation for young men in New Westminster who might otherwise be on the streets, and who would benefit from a place where they could obtain advice, companionship etc.

b) Also there will be a talk on "Westminster House", where a small number of girls suffering from alcohol/drug abuse are accommodated.

November 25 Meeting

Gerontology panel. How applications may be made for the elderly to be accepted into rest homes, or other appropriate accommodation. Planning not finalized.

We would particularly ask that all our Federates have as many of their members as possible attend these meetings.

Nominations chairman for 1988 executive to be appointed.

.... 2

NEW WESTMINSTER COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mrs. Freda P. Hogg
President:

NOTICE

On December 20, 1982, the United Nations General Assembly passed a Resolution 37/221 declaring 1987 to be the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Therefore, this year the National Council of Women of Canada Common Program for Women's Councils across Canada will be slanted toward recognizing the gravity of this problem.

The program that the New Westminster Council of Women have arranged for OCTOBER 28 will reflect the need for community support for certain accommodation requirements for the youth of our City. Among other aspects, the NOVEMBER 25 program will explain assessment for the elderly in order to be eligible for admission to appropriate homes.

BOTH THESE PROGRAMS ARE OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY, AND WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THESE INFORMATIVE SESSIONS!

AGENDA

PLACE FOR BOTH PROGRAMS: New Westminster Public Library Auditorium
716 - 6th Avenue, New Westminster

OCTOBER 28, 1987

1:00 P.M. Welcome to Visiting Councils, Members, Guests
Minutes

1:15 P.M. Introduction of Guest Speakers

1:20 P.M. DETACHED YOUTH PROGRAM
Speaker: Corporal Greg Donnelly, New Westminster Police Department
Mr. Aaron Johnson, Detached Youth Program

Question Period

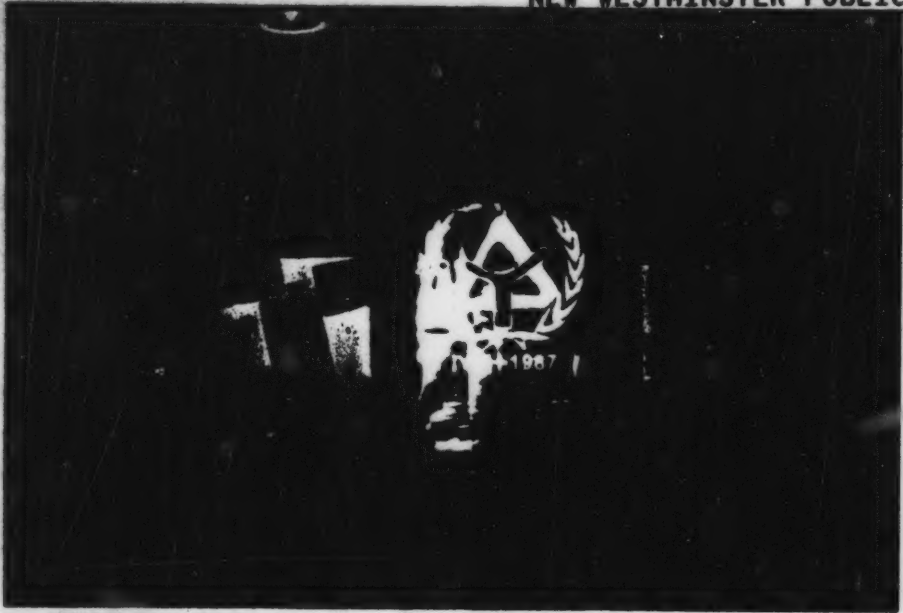
2:05 P.M. WESTMINSTER HOUSE
Speaker: Dr. Fred Harder

Question Period

2:50 P.M. Tea will be served

.... / 2

OCTOBER 28 and NOVEMBER 25 COMMON PROGRAM MEETINGS IN NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



IYSH posters on New Westminster library auditorium wall.

Miss Doreen Vatour, Detached Youth Program Street Worker.

Facing: L Teri Nicholas, Greater Vancouver Family Services worker. R Mrs. A. Johnson, del[illegible]te

Dr.F. Harder, speaker on "Westminster House"

NOVEMBER 25 ASSESSMENT FOR ADMITTANCE TO REST HOMES and TASK FORCE ON SENIORS' HOUSING (cont'd)

Meeting adjourned, and tea was served. The interaction between speakers and members was great, especially in this festive room with its color and Christmas decoration.

CONCLUSION

Two very worthwhile meetings with respect to our Common Program.

36 - 38 at each of these meetings. Double regular attendance.

More enthusiasm and interest demonstrated at these meetings.

Definitely more awareness of local community "human" needs re accommodation.

More Presidents of Federate groups in attendance than throughout the entire year (except, of course, our Annual Meeting).

Two new members joined as a result of much phoning and advertisements of these meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Freda P. Hogg.

8 NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1987

Forum pinpoints housing woes of community

[illegible]

[illegible] lack of affordable housing in the community. Some 110 men and women attended, among them the people who could effect some action — the politicians. (Review photo)

[illegible] can create difficult situations [illegible] it can take time.

[illegible] were also discussed by [illegible]

[illegible]

"People realize support services are needed, but don't want them in their backyard," she said.

Alec Greaves, chairman of the housing committee of the Social Planning Council said the SPC has several initiatives going, including the review on policies on group homes. "Residents may fear [illegible] projects fear [illegible] property values and [illegible] he said. "Smaller groups would be less obvious." He said Ontario has "squeezed people out" from buildings in all cities.

He said the municipal housing statement needs updating and $12,000 of Ontario funding is available for a housing profile.

A group home bylaw allows four types of homes in the city, Jack [illegible], of the city's building department said. They are only allowed 1100 feet from other group homes and must satisfy all [illegible]

[illegible] affordable housing and says more [illegible] housing is needed for people leaving an abusive situation.

A need for non-profit homes is identified by [illegible] of the [illegible] Non-Profit Housing Inc. [illegible] Niagara Housing Authority.

In the co-operative housing available, 441 units are occupied in the Region, [illegible] are under construction and [illegible] under plan, Betty Anne Baker, executive director of Niagara Peninsula Homes said. There is no down payment, and these are self-managed residences, primarily for single mothers with children. There are two co-ops in Niagara Falls, at Falls Place and Westwood Place with a [illegible] ing. "Land usually takes the time. It is hard to find available land. [illegible] a problem, because once the site [is] established, speed is essential."

[illegible], supervisor of Family and Children's Services in Niagara Falls said that housing is a problem, [illegible] of the government, but of the community. [illegible] Children, he said, are taken into [illegible] at FACS or in foster [illegible] if they are in need of protection.

LOOK AT BYLAWS

Questions from the floor suggested [illegible] concerns regarding group homes in the area. It was suggested that more are needed, and a more progressive bylaw should be considered.

Mayor William Smeaton, who spoke briefly, said it is important to realize [illegible] in the area of group homes, there have been very few [illegible] He said the vast majority of citizens are a little [illegible] and very conservative.

"They are accepting slowly but well. [illegible]

He said the time is right for a review of [illegible] bylaws. He later remarked he would be looking at the municipal housing statement and policy as suggested by Mr. Greaves.

In summarizing, Mrs. Harrington said there is evidence of [illegible] for housing solutions. The chief problem is with affordable housing and women are most vitally affected ... particularly teen mothers and ex-psychiatric patients.

"Band aid solutions are not enough," she said. A housing registry is a possible solution for [illegible] abilities, and innovative thinking on property development, new shelters and new management may lead to answers to the problems, she said.

FAMILY

NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1987 3

Former planner challenges mayor to re-activate plan

By VERNA REID
Review staff writer

A challenge has been issued by former city planner and member of the Social Planning Council Alec Greaves to dust off and re-activate a municipal housing statement policy that looks at the city's housing needs.

He directed his remarks to Mayor William Smeaton Tuesday at a public forum called Housing in Our Community, presented by the social justice committee of the YWCA in co-operation with the Local Council of Women.

Mr. Greaves suggested the mayor make use of a municipal housing profile to supply a more thorough survey of city housing stock, for which $12,000 of provincial funding would be available.

The mayor later said he intended to look into the study and that there should be a group home bylaw review.

Restrictive bylaws and housing for single mothers and ex-psychiatric patients emerged as the most pressing problems at the forum, which attracted about 110 men and women to the La Marsh Room of the Victoria Avenue Public Library.

Margaret Harrington was moderator and the 12-member panel consisted of regional agencies concerned with the plight of the homeless. In summarizing, Mrs. Harrington said women were most vitally affected by the lack of adequate housing and that housing policies should reflect needs and building standards. Government assistance should not create ghettos, she said, and agencies should work together.

"Things can change," she said. "If user groups are involved, they may come up with ideas."

This was the second public forum on community issues presented by the social justice committee. In 1986, a panel on pornography was presented.

HOUSING [illegible]

WHA[illegible]

[illegible]

Are YOU [illegible]

Do YOU favour [illegible]

Can YOU find suitable accommodations?

PUBLIC FORUM

Date : November 10th 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Location: Public Library Victoria Ave.

Cost : FREE

PANELISTS ARE:

Judy Adamson	Canadian Mental Health
Betty Ann Baker	Niagara Peninsula Homes Co-ops
Charles Cheesman Jr.	Coordinated Emergency Services
Gabe Damore	[illegible] Niagara Housing Authority
Norma Fear	Niagara Women in Crisis
Alec Greaves	Social Planning Council
Murray Johnston	City Hall - Building Department
Sheila Massey	Niagara South Community Legal Assistance [illegible]
Brian McKeown	Stamford Kiwanis
Bishop Don Mullan	[illegible]
Lesley Varrinet	[illegible]

IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE LOCAL [illegible]

Child Care Available **Refreshments**

SHELTER AND FOOD

Working on the premise that food and shelter are the true basics, the YWCA and Local Council of Women will hold a public forum on affordable housing Nov. 10 in Victoria Avenue library, from 7 to 9 p.m. A food basket will be raffled that night to raise funds for the continuing work of the Social Justice Committee of the YW. There is no admission cost and officials are anxious to hear from people with trouble finding and keeping affordable housing. Left to right are Pat High, Marlene LaForge, Louanne Durant, Florence Sandercock and Jeanie McLellan. (Review photo)

COUNCIL OF WOMEN
OF OTTAWA AND AREA

LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES
D'OTTAWA ET LA REGION

1. The October 19 meeting of the Council of Women of Ottawa and Area focused on the needs of the homeless in our area, and more specifically on the situation for homeless women. Our resource person was Mary King, Assistant Coordinator, Community Ministries, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, and a member of the Ontario Task Force for the Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Members learned that there is a population of homeless women in our area who have no place to spend the night and who do not fit into any of the half way houses which already exist in the community. In response to the needs of these women, the following has been set up, largely by church groups:

a) An overnight Emergency Shelter for Women, in the basement of All Saints Anglican Church, which is used by about 30 women every night. The population varies, but many of the women are regulars.

b) During the day life becomes a search for survival. These women move between a variety of facilities provided by church and community groups as they look for meals and shelter from the weather; until recently they had no place to go on weekends. This winter the regional government is providing a temporary grant for the cold winter months which will allow these women to spend daytime hours during the weekend at Women's Place, also in the downtown area.

c) Martha's, initiated by Women in Crisis, a joint project of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, has been established recently to give a more permanent room of their own to women who can fit into the setting which the hostel provides.

2. The audience learned that about 60% of the women who used the Shelter had some psychiatric problem in their background; the strains of homelessness did not help. Others were younger, including some teenagers in conflict with their families, but the average was about 45.

3. The Anglican Church Social Services which operate the Emergency Shelter does not view it as an appropriate solution to the needs of these women. Mary King stressed the central importance to each human being of having some sort of a home, offering security, privacy, personal identity, etc. She pointed out that an Emergency Shelter does not meet any of these basic needs for the women who use its facilities overnight.

4. Discussion after the initial presentation helped to clarify the kinds of women who used the shelter, some of the reasons why they were there, and some of the problems encountered in operating the shelter. It became clear that facilities for housing the psychiatrically disabled in our area were inadequate, and that a small group of women in Ottawa do not qualify for help from the usual social services because they do not have a place to live. Mary King pointed out that there seemed to be only enough money to hide the problems, but not enough to support programs which will help to solve them. She thought it was time that we moved from the politics of compassion to the politics of social justic

5. Actions taken At this meeting the Ottawa Council approved a resolutio to be sent to the Provincial Council of Women on housing for the psychiatrically disabled, stressing the need for planning to coordinate housing and services for this hard to reach group, and the importance of cooperation between government and community agencies in providing services.

As a further result of the meeting, one of our affiliated members, Beta Sigma Phi, decided to provide small comfort bags, with toothbrushes combs, etc., for women who must use the Emergency Shelter.

Ottawa, Dec. 31, 1987.

Thursday Leader Oct 20/87

The Regina Council of Women will hold its regular monthly meeting at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Committee Room, 15th floor, City Hall. Speaker will be Ed Bloos, executive director of Regina Food Bank. His topic will be on hunger in the city, particularly in respect to school-aged children. The meeting is open to the public and all those interested are invited to attend.

Leader Post; Oct-24.'87

Meetings

The Regina branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society will hold its annual general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 201, 1870 Lorne St.

The branch holds regular meetings on the seond Monday and fourth Tuesday of the month. For further information call 359-9707 days or 789-1875 evenings.

The Regina Council of Women is hosting a public forum "Sheltering the Homeless" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Core Ritchie Community Centre, 445 14th Ave. Coordinator is Lowell Monkhouse. Participants are from groups most at risk. Entertainment will be by Donna Caruso and coffee will be served. For more information call 757-6166 or 584-0013.

LEADER POST
Oct 24/87

THE REGINA COUNCIL OF WOMEN

PUBLIC FORUM

"Sheltering the Homeless"

TUESDAY, OCT. 27, 1987
7:30 p.m.

CORE RITCHIE RECREATION CENTRE
445 14th Avenue

- *Co-ordinator — Lowell Monkhouse, Executive Director, Regina Market Square*
- *Songs by Donna Caruso*

New policies needed for homeless

Canada must develop innovative housing policies to help the homeless, says a member of the Regina Downtown Chaplaincy.

Approximately 40,000 Canadians sleep on heating vents or in derelict buildings and spend their days in doughnut shops and shopping malls, Linda Robinson told a meeting of the Regina Council of Women.

The homeless end up out there because they're caught in a vicious cycle of poverty that usually starts with the loss of a job, she said. With money running low, they get evicted from their homes and wind up moving from cheap hotels to hostels, unable to collect welfare because they have no permanent address.

At one time, most homeless people were middle-aged men, said Robinson, former co-ordinator of the Peoples' Budget Coalition. But men and women under 30 are showing up in more hostels and emergency shelters.

No figures are available for the number of homeless in Regina, she said. The issue will be discussed during a public meeting May 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

The Regina Coalition for the Homeless is working on a report on the situation here, she added.

Plight of homeless examined

By LuAnn LaSalle
of the Leader-Post

Regina's homeless, hungry and poor would be defended under a strategy involving the community and government, delegates to a forum heard Tuesday night.

This means doing more than simply talking to all levels of governments and the community to let them know there's a problem, said Lowell Monkhouse, chairman of the forum on the homeless sponsored by the Regina Council of Women.

It means helping to organize "some mass public consciousness raising," said Monkhouse, who proposed the six-point strategy that was accepted in principle by the council and representatives from battered women, youth and seniors groups at the forum.

Monkhouse proposed that Regina City Council, city school boards and the provincial government be publicly told about poverty in the city with a special emphasis on housing problems because it ensures media coverage.

Regina has at least 300 homeless men or "old boys," but Monkhouse said he doesn't really know how many other homeless people there would be. Joanne Crofford of the Rainbow Youth Centre on Albert Street said a survey done last Jan. 22 by the Canadian Council on Social Development found 255 homeless people in Saskatchewan.

Monkhouse encouraged the 30 people attending the forum to meet individually with politicians to "hammer them and keep on their tails" until something is done.

Council president Heather Koch said after the meeting the council will keep the plight of the homeless, the poor and the hungry before the public. "We just feel bound to help after what we've heard tonight."

Koch said council will likely get involved in a specific project to help the homeless.

Monkhouse proposed that people get involved in a specific project, help raise money, use their contacts to achieve change, and provide support services. He asked those attending to "stand up behind people who are attacking injustice."

Donna Caruso of the Saskatchewan Battered Women's Association said the provincial government has the money to help out, but it needs to change its priorities.

She estimated that Premier Grant Devine's government spends $1 million monthly on advertising. If that money was spent on battered women "it wouldn't take very long to make a big difference in violence in the home," Caruso said.

Eldon Anderson, president of the Downtown Crisis Housing Foundation, said non-profit organizations need to have financial help from senior levels of government.

Anderson said there's no way his organization would be able to raise several million dollars to buy a hostel.

He said later he was disappointed that city council decided to demolish the vacant LaSalle Hotel on Hamilton Street, but said there are several other buildings that could be used as a home for the "old boys."

Leader-Post October 28 '87

Regina Council of Women

95 Hudson Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 2W1
September 10, 1987

Rosslyn Tetley
1987 Common Programme Co-ordinator
National Council of Women of Canada

Dear Rosslyn:

I thought you might like some feedback on what we are doing in Regina regarding the Common Programme. We have booked a meeting room in the Core Ritchie Community Centre for the evening of October 27th. We intend to have a Forum and draw speakers from groups directly concerned with the homeless, such as By Ourselves, a selfhelp group of psychiatric patients, the Rainbow Youth Centre, the Regina City Police , Seniors, Abused and Battered Wives, etc. We already have our two main speakers, Mr. Lowell Monkhouse who is the Executive Director of Regina's Market Square and was very involved with an earlier workshop here this year on the homeless and Donna Caruso, a social worker deeply involved on her part with abused women. She is also a singer songwriter and will sing for us. I heard her at a meeting run by the western division of the National Advisory Council on the Status of Women some two years ago and can vouch for the power of her songs.

We also hope to tie in our regular October meeting to the same theme;perhaps with an overview of what our Council has done in the past to provide housing facilities in the community. We did a great deal towards the establishment of subsidized housing here in the '50'sand in recent years for the physically disabled. Work is just beginning on publicity but the main thrust will come in early October when I return from gold prospecting with my husband in the Cariboo of B.C.

Hope things are going well with the programme and that you are getting lots of good ideas from other councils. Enjoyed getting together with you here at the May meeting.

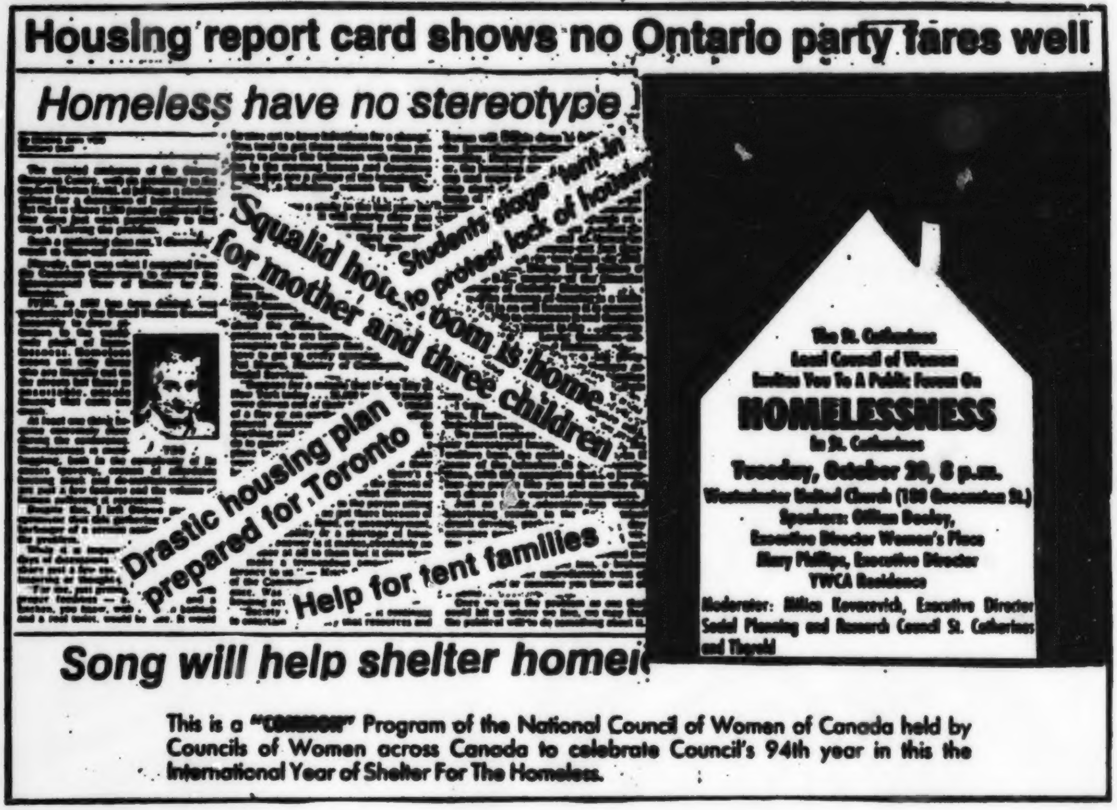
Best Wishes,

Marion

Marion Beck
Publicity and Public Affairs
Regina Council of Women

ST. CATHARIN

The Standard October 16, 1987


Housing report card shows no Ontario party fares well
Homeless have no stereotype
Students stage 'tent-in' to protest lack of housing
Squalid hotel room is home for mother and three children
Drastic housing plan prepared for Toronto
Help for tent families
Song will help shelter homele

The St. Catharines
Local Council of Women
Invites You To A Public Forum On

HOMELESSNESS

In St. Catharines

Tuesday, October 20, 8 p.m.

Westminster United Church (180 Queenston St.)
Speakers: Gillian Dooley,
Executive Director Women's Place
Mary Phillips, Executive Director
YWCA Residence
Moderator: Milica Kovacevich, Executive Director
Social Planning and Research Council St. Catharines
and Thorold

This is a "[illegible]" Program of the National Council of Women of Canada held by Councils of Women across Canada to celebrate Council's 94th year in this the International Year of Shelter For The Homeless.

Plight of homeless demands action, forum told

By DEBRA ANN YEO
Standard Staff

The plight of the homeless is an old song but one we have to keep humming so others can pick up the tune.

That was the basic message at a forum on homelessness sponsored by the St. Catharines Local Council of Women this week.

"The best place to start is at the grassroots level, people in the local area talking about homelessness .... The more voices that are heard the more chances are that changes can be made," said Milica Kovacevich, executive director of the St. Catharines and Thorold Social Planning and Research Council, who moderated Tuesday night's informal discussion.

Fittingly enough, women are one of the two groups of people a SPARC study found to be most in need of housing in the St. Catharines-Thorold area. The other [illegible] young people aged 16 to 18.

Ms. Kovacevich noted, however, that other people are also in need, judging from the calls that reach SPARC's office day after day, including two-parent families, single parents, both male and female, and senior citizens.

"We used to think of homeless people as those bums and those winos out on the street .... There are new faces," she said.

She added that homelessness is defined two ways by the United Nations, which has declared 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. First, it means those who literally have no roof over their heads. Second it is the "relative homeless," those whose shelter does not protect them from the elements", is without access to safe water and sanitation, is insecure or unsafe, far from jobs, education and health care, and costs too much.

It had been hoped that Tuesday's forum would attract homeless people to speak out and "put a face" on the issue. But there appeared to be only one person in the room who fit the UN definition — a St. Catharines mother of three children, soon to be four, who with her husband must be out of her apartment by the first of next month.

Ironically she is being evicted because of renovations to her building under a government program that is supposed to help landlords improve living conditions for the tenant.

The woman said she could return to the fourplex once the repairs are done but only if she pays an extra $150 a month rent. The program, she said, permits her landlord to charge an extra $25 a month for each $1,000 he spends on repairs.

Previously she and her family had spent some time living out of their car when they lost another apartment for getting behind in rent. Her husband was making minimum wage and she had been ordered by her doctor to quit her own job after she began hemmorhaging while pregnant with her third child.

She said her husband recently moved to a better paying job and that they had expected to have enough money to move to better quarters in the spring.

Judging by the amount of head-shaking that went on among the 35 women in the room at Westminster United Church, they seemed in agreement that the main reason for the persistence of homelessness is a lack of political will to do anything about it.

As an example, one woman singled out local zoning bylaws. With "one stroke of the pen," she said, city council could permit seniors with large homes too expensive for them to maintain to rent parts of them out, thus solving two problems.

Local Council of Women member Gracia Janes pointed out that only a few areas of St. Catharines allow homeowners to add a rental unit to their home without a rezoning. This ability was revoked in one area of the city because of public pressure on council from single family homeowners, she said.

"If we could just change attitudes a little," said Angela, a Brock University student who was once near-homeless herself and now tries to help others in similar situations.

She said she knows many people who live in rundown hotels with cockroaches, leaky roofs and violent neighbors. "Sometimes the place is just falling apart," yet to close these hazards down means the tenants have nowhere else to go.

A lot of them are on government assistance, have very poor self-images and are costing tax money with trips to psychiatric hospitals, and "decent housing is a key to these people's wellness," she said.

"The government in my opinion doesn't have any (political will). We have to look to each other. We also have to look to ourselves at the same time (through self-help initiatives)," she said.

Ms. Kovacevich pointed out that SPARC is holding a public forum at Christ Lutheran Church on Russell Avenue next Tuesday night to tell people about ways of increasing rental housing stock in the city, including home sharing and changes to zoning bylaws.

"There is no one answer. There are a whole lot of different answers," she said.

Milica Kovacevich will moderate a panel consisting of Gillian Dooley of Women's Place and Mary Phillips of the YWCA Women's Residence on the theme Homelessness in Our Home Town: The Reality Of It, in recognition of the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and is sponsored by The St. Catharines Local Council of Women. The program will begin at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Westminster United Church, Queenston Street....

The Standard
Oct. 14, 1987

Saint John Council of Women

Jan. 20, 1988

To: Rosslyn Tetley
Common Programme Coordinator, NCWC
112 Cornwall, Montreal. H3P 1M8

From:

Ruth Pierce
President
161 Golden Grove Road
Saint John East, N. B. E2H 1X2

On December 2, 1987 Leslie Tennant who is chairman of the Saint John Community Based Coalition on Housing was the Guest Speaker at The Saint John Council of Women.

Mrs. Tennant spoke on housing being upgraded in parts of the city to make affordable and better housing for lower income residents. She shared with us the plight of the Homeless in Saint John and what the Coalition is doing to eradicate the problem. The speaker had posters showing renovated housing and others not livable for tenants.

A discussion followed. The Salvation Army representative told about how they are reaching out to the Homeless. The Housing Convenor had information to add to the discussion.

Ruth Pierce
Ruth Pierce
President
The Saint John Council Of Women

he Sun, Swift Current, Monday, November 2, 1987 Page 5

THE HOMELESS

Woes in Swift Current a topic at local forum

"Garbage litters"

By WENDY (SANDERSON) MURI
Sun staff

The homeless—at various stages—is not a problem confined to big cities, it's a problem right in Swift Current, a panel on homelessness heard last week.

The homeless, or the need for shelter, was a major topic of discussion at a local National Council of Women forum Wednesday.

A panel with Capt. Russell Sutherland of the Salvation Army, Donna Lachapelle of the Swift Current Real Estate Board, Jannie Lindsay of the Swift Current Housing Authority and Rev. Alan Minarcik of First United Church spoke to, and field questions from, about 40 women at the forum.

Conditions of some places in the city [illegible]re also of focus, as Capt. Sutherland [illegible]ribed squaler at one location.

Garbage litters the building hallways knee-deep and people are forced to live in squalor in Swift Current. This isn't Toronto, this is in Swift Current. These things are here and real.

"On entrance the plaster is falling off the walls, the flooring is wore through and showing its age; over a three month period garbage has remained on the stairs and in other small rooms where the doors have been knocked off; there is broken plumbing, knocked down walls, disposed garbage, broken televisions and utensils piled more than knee high."

He said he has been a witness to these conditions for what is now months. "There are five or six usuable independent rooms that really can't be called suites and the patrons change on a regular basis. These places should not be able to be rented."

Capt. Sutherland said, "we have homeless transient people in this city everyday." He listed seven cases that occurred last Thursday where individuals were requesting help from the Salvation Army, saying the major needs of the people were met by workers and funds of the Saskatchewan Government Social Services. The Salvation Army only assisted their programs where they were, by regulations, not able to meet all the needs.

"There is a single employable girl under 20 here, from a small town not far away, wanting a job. Social Services will pay her rent and she is supposed to feed herself on $3.96 a day if she is getting the $123 food allowance.

"The girl has no clothes, no furniture and the Salvation Army today committed to her a chesterfield, chair, table and two chairs, a single bed, radio, blanket, pillow and a few assorted cooking utensils. We will be also supplementing on a weekly basis necessary food and trying to encourage the girl to get suitable clothing to find employment.

"We get an equally as many or more calls from single men under similiar circumstances. The solution is social services be allowed to pay more for a single person and more for furniture allowance."

Rev. Minarcik said while the First United Church does not have the caseload of the Salvation Army, they get homeless people crossing their doors three or four times a week. He said there were also other types of homessness.

"We don't have a shelter for battered women in this area. For women in a menacing, frightening situation, the nearest shelter is in Moose Jaw; there are seniors who own their own home but cannot afford to maintain it; there are seniors that are prisoners in their own home and families living in housing where I would fear for safety.

"Shelter rates from social services has remained the same in this area for the last four years. You and I know costs have not remained the same, so what has had to go from their budget—food and adequate children's clothing."

Speaking on what the city did offer, Mrs. Lindsay said, "senior subsidized housing program is very popular in Swift Current. We have to take people that are the most needy first, and hopefully under future programs will have a more wider spread housing.

"The biggest shortfall would be in senior housing for moderate income people."

The housing authority also manages family subsidized housing, and non-profit housing.

Mrs. Lachapelle said the city now has 1878 rental units, this includes aparments and duplexes, not rental houses or houses with suites in them. "We have a good choice of suites available for those who can afford to pay. Of the houses for sale at this time 20 per cent are under $40,000, and 30 per cent are between $40,000 and $50,000."

Rev. Minarcik said, "I'm glad the council had the willingness and courage to take a look beyond the surface of homelessness. Everyone would like to believe their home town is the most beautiful and the most welcoming and I appreciate their willingness to tackle the subject."

The local forum was part of the National Council of Women's focus on the homeless during the United Nation's International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, said Swift Current president Mary Findlay.

S.C. Sun.

Building targetted for a look by city

11-4-87

The city will be looking into housing conditions on one city property following a report by Salvation Army Capt. Russell Sutherland to the local Council of Women last week.

City Commissioner Murray Butterfield told council Monday night the city has not received any correspondence on the property, but will look into the matter.

Capt. Sutherland told people gathered for a panel on homelessness in the city the "flooring is worn through and showing its age.

"Over a three-month period, garbage has remained on the stairs and in other small rooms where the doors have been knocked off. There is broken plumbing, knocked-down walls, disposed garbage, broken televisions and utensils piled more than knee-high."

Mayor Stein said other agencies such as the public health department, may have to be called in to deal with the problem.

City of
Swift Current

Phone (306)778-2777
OFFICE OF:

December 9, 1987

Mary E. Findlay, President
S.C. Council of Women
112 Ninth Avenue N.E.
Swift Current, Saskatchewan
S9H 2R8

Dear Mrs. Findlay:

Re: Homelessness in our Home Town

Your letter to Mayor Stein regarding concerns of the S.C. Council of Women as to the living conditions of older apartment blocks has been discussed by the Finance and Community Services Committee in some detail.

In response to your inquiry about inspections of apartment blocks in the City, our Fire Department does conduct routine inspections to insure the safety standards are met. The health standards, on the other hand, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, and it is through this body that you may wish to pursue the matter further.

We thank you for expressing your interest and concern in our City.

Yours truly,

Delores Cox

(Mrs.) Delores Cox
City Clerk

DC/lb

In Regina
the City Council has recently
put into effect a "Maintenance
and Occupancy Bylaw" re regular
inspection of apartment blocks, etc.
Could Swift Current perhaps look
into this?

196 - 1st Ave. N.E. P.O. Box 340, Swift Current, Saskatchewan S9H 3W1

Saskatoon Council of Women

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

3142 Eastview
Saskatoon, Sask. S7J 3J4

Aug. 21, 1987

Rosslyn Tetley, V.P.
National Council of Women of Canada
112 Cornwall Ave.
Montreal, Québec
H3P 1M8

Dear Rosslyn;

Thank you for your correspondence re Common Programme. Your background material will be very helpful. Here are our plans (still somewhat tentative):

1) Sept. 25 - General meeting - "Street children in Saskatoon"

2) Wk of Oct. 26-30 - Breakfast at Salvation Army Hostel will be served Local Council of Women. A tour of the facility + talk by Officer in charge will also be arranged.

3) Jan. '87 - Ongoing plight of battered women. Impact of reduced funding will be considered + the role of one of our Federates in Interval House will be discussed.

* I agree with your interpretation of battered women as "homeless"

Will keep you informed as things develop.

Sincerely,

Lynda [illegible], Pres.

Toronto and Area Council of Women
IN AFFILIATION WITH
Provincial, National, International
Councils of Women

Founded in 1893

TO: Roslyn Tetley, NCWC
FROM: Toronto and Area Council of Women

SUBJECT: 1987 Common Programme -- "homelessness in your home town"

As shown by the enclosed clippings, the need for affordable housing in Metro Toronto has been well established. Toronto and Area Council of Women attempted to ascertain what is being done to alleviate the situation and to suggest ways of easing the housing shortage. A special committee has been working since March 1987. Letters written to housing authorities, interviews with municipal officials, queries to our federates, revealed the following:

CityHome has a waiting list of 15,000.
Units being built and expected completion dates, as of November 1987,
- Larch Street -- 44 units, 1989 occupancy
- Bathurst Quay -- 162 units, 1987 occupancy
- Bathurst Quay #3 -- 106 units, December 1987 occupancy
- Chestnut Street -- 144 units, April 1987 - filled
- Danforth Avenue -- 109 units, January 1988

Other inquiries disclosed:

Bathurst St. and Prince Charles Dr. -- 160 units available late 1987, with 71 units reserved for a special group -- 55 suitable for wheel chair tenants able to function independently, 16 units for handicapped persons who require assistance with everyday needs; 39 apartments are occupied by young low income families.

All Saints Church, Dundas and Sherbourne Streets, provided land and arranged for 61 bachelor apartments to be built. One of Toronto and Area Council members was shown the plans before building commenced and asked that one floor be reserved for single women. This has been done and three women were the first tenants of the building. (see enclosed clipping)

A meeting was held on January 12, 1988, with Shirley Desrochers, President of Metropolitan Toronto Association for Community Living, as the main speaker. Newspaper notices, letters and phone calls, personal contact, invited the public to attend. Ms Desrochers, through an AV presentation, explained how the Association is encouraging those under their protection to live in the community and are providing houses for 3 to 5 occupants with supervision. These people are employed at low wages but pay a portion of their salary towards their living expenses in the special homes. There is a difficulty in locating suitable houses for this purpose, because of the housing shortage, and because of the reluctance on the part of neighbourhoods to have a group home located near other residents. Our Council will help to overcome this opposition when such a home is proposed for their neighbourhoods or other areas where they are acquainted.

Quote from Minutes of October 6, 1987 meeting: "Current rents in downtown Toronto are $75 to $100 a week, which means that many people must seek shelter in hostels or live on the street. Many of the 30,000 native Indians living in Toronto are in the downtown area and a Drop-In Centre at 411 Parliament Street is assisting street people." (see enclosed report)

From our research and interviews it seems that most housing starts in Metro are instigated by churches and social agencies; i.e. Christian Resource Centre, Fred Victor Mission, All Saints Church, R.C. Archdiocese of Toronto, Dixon Hall, Y.W.C.A. - 3 tiers, St. Andrew's Society. The number of housing units being built is much smaller than the number of people looking for housing. Municipal governments could show a greater concern.

Some suggestions have been made. Land, publicly owned and not required or in use at the present time, should be released for the building of housing. Vacant industrial buildings should be examined with a view to renovating into small rental units. Municipalities might have to relax zoning by-laws to allow residential use, but that should not be a problem in view of the emergency. Mobile homes, placed on serviced land, could be a means of providing low cost housing in a short period of time. In a large metropolitan area such as Toronto, "no frills" housing would serve young couples and families with young children. More efficient use of land must be undertaken, with fewer "luxury" homes and condominiums being approved.

Toronto and Area Council will continue to study the housing situation and request action.

Mary Lemyre
President

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS (IYSH) COMMITTEE.

January 11, 1988. 540 E. Hastings St. Vancouver.

Topic: WOMEN AND HOUSING FORUM.

AGENDA

1. Introduction to:
   - a) IYSH Committee.
   - b) tonight's consultation meeting.

   Patsy George and David Hulchanski

2. Introductions around the room.

3. Summary of the proposed plans for the Forum on Women and Housing:
   - a) objectives
   - b) format
   - c) participants
   - d) possible results

   Joan LeClair and David Hulchanski

4. Building on, revision ... of the proposed plans.

5. Organization of working committees for the Forum.

6. Dates for next meetings.

7. Adjourn.

VICTORIA

December 18, 1987.

Dear Rosslyn:

I do believe something is being done about low-cost housing in Victoria. I have it from first-hand knowledge as it affected me.

We have just recently sold the house in which we spent 41 years of our more than 50 years of married life, along with 5 of our neighbours, most of whom have spent many years on the same street. We are now all settled and scattered from one end of Victoria to the other. Soon in January, I believe, there will be 33 stacked town houses for low and middle income families. They will be quite attractive 2 & 3 bedroom units with underground parking. There will also be some wheelchair accessible suites on the ground level, as well as a 15-suite apartment for tenants who prefer an apartment.

The land, while bargained for by a developer, was purchased by the B.C. Government. The dwelling units will also be financed by the B.C. Government and built by a developer. It will be run by a society.

While it was difficult to give up something that had many memories clinging to it, that large piece of land, used only by a handful of people, will now be home to many more.

Sincerely,

Mollie Beddington (Mrs)

President, Victoria Council of
Women.

COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF WINNIPEG
ESTABLISHED 1894
IN FEDERATION WITH THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA & THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

2575 Assiniboine Cr.
Winnipeg,Mb.R3J 0B6
January 28,1988

His Worship Mr. Bill Norrie Q.C.
City of Winnipeg
2nd Floor 510 Main St.
Winnipeg,Mb. R3B 1B9

Dear Mr. Norrie:

The Council of Women of Winnipeg, as part of a Common Programme involving 30 councils across Canada, sponsored a panel discussion on the topic ' THE HOMELESS IN YOUR HOMETOWN'. The Council is a federation of 34 local Women's organizations.

Winnipeg panelists described the conditions encountered by the homeless in our city.What we heard was very disturbing. When City Council reviews budget estimates it is necessary for you, our Mayor and Council to keep in mind the conditions of the homeless in Winnipeg. Homelessness is not only an economic problem, it is also a social problem. Special approaches are necessary to deal with the "unhousables" - those persons , because of personal lifestyle or behavioural problems are unable to maintain tenancy.

Two projects have proven effective in meeting the needs of the homeless.They also offer preventive solutions to the ongoing problem of shelter for the homeless in our urban society.

The first, ROSSBROOK HOUSE, is a recreational community drop-in centre in the north end. The centre belongs to the community and is staffed by people from the community. It is also a place where children seek temporary shelter when their homelife is in crisis. This respite, often needed only overnight, or a weekend is a place of safety, a place where they are known,accepted and treated with respect. This refuge is an important step to preventing runaway children from resorting to stealing and prostitution for survival. The Council of Women believes that an inner-city network of drop-in centres modelled on Rossbrook House could help to prevent a future generation of "unhousables".

The second project that has achieved considerable success is a needs-based residential housing project operated by the MAIN STREET PROJECT. The house rules for money management, violence and drinking have brought stability to persons who were previously "unhousable". Long term assessment rather than crisis management is taking these people out of the merry-go-round of social agencies and hospital emergency wards.

What is the alternative to centres like these? People go from crisis to crisis from referral agency to referral agency with increasing frustration and great expense to our social system.

There is one other aspect of low income housing that we would like to bring to your attention. About 300 single occupancy rooms were eliminated as a result of closing the YM/YWCA residences. Many of those people require a semi-sheltered situation to function in the community.

Please send us information on budget items in the current estimates aimed at solving these housing problems in Winnipeg.

When budget discussions are before City Council the Council of Women believes that priority should be given to the housing situation in the inner city. These decisions are financial and political and moral.

Yours truly,

Marilyn Letts

Marilyn Letts

President

c.c. Sister Leslie
c.c. John Rodgers
c.c. Coalition on Homelessness
c.c. Provincial CouncilOf Women of Manitoba
c.c. National Council of Women of Canada

White Rock and District Council of Women

[redacted]

ATIRA HOUSE - "SHOWER" - TEA

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1987, 1 - 5 P.M.

13621 BLACKBURN AVE., WHITE ROCK

You are cordially invited to attend an afternoon TEA where the price of admission is some HOUSEHOLD ARTICLE to be given as a gift towards the furnishing and out-fitting the new Atira House that is soon to be in operation in the South Surrey/White Rock area. This house will be a safe haven for women and children in violent situations.

SUGGESTIONS for gifts:
- Kitchen utensils and supplies
- Bedding - sheets, pillow cases
- Bathroom supplies - towels, soap
- Monetary donations gratefully accepted.

The White Rock & District Council of Women are sponsoring this TEA -'Shower', but for further information please call the Atira House office at 531-4430 or 531-9151.